

**MARVEL**  
GRAPHIC NOVEL  
M

# DAREDEVIL BLACK WIDOW

**ABATTOIR**

**JIM STARLIN**

**JOE CHIDO**

JIM STARLIN

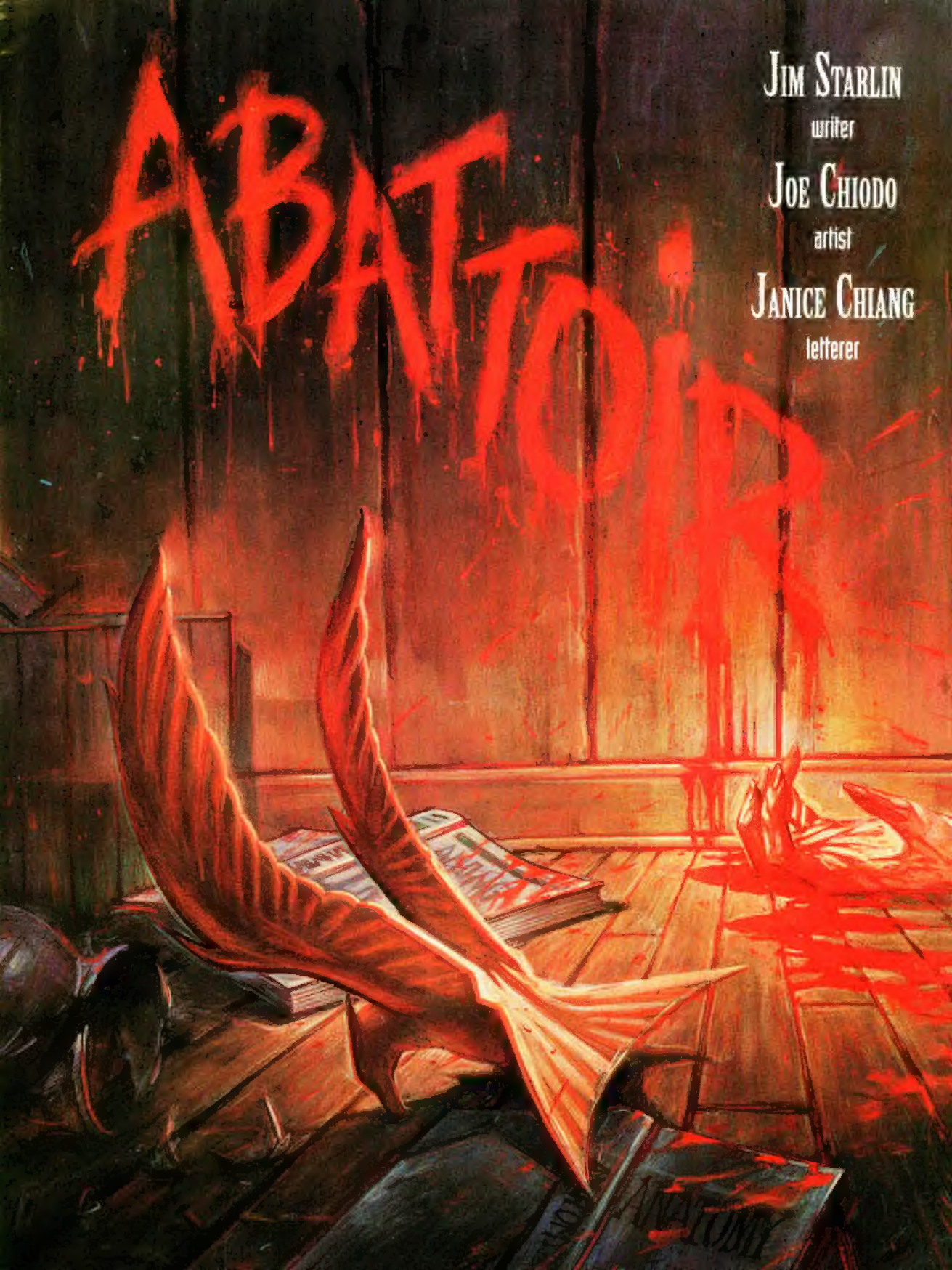
writer

JOE CHIDO

artist

JANICE CHIANG

letterer



**TOP-SECRET**

**Black Widow**



**SHIELD - TOP SECRET - SHIELD**

**Subject:** Natalia (Natasha) Romanova  
**Code name:** Black Widow  
**Height:** 5'7"  
**Weight:** 125 lbs.  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** Red-auburn (sometimes dyed black)

*Contact  
N.R. on CB*

**Status:** Former KGB agent, defected to the United States; on extended visa (SHIELD authorization). One-time Avenger and Champion. Currently part-time SHIELD intelligence agent (inactive status). Requested indefinite leave of absence due to duty-related stress. It is believed that a certain amount of dissatisfaction with current SHIELD operations and methods contributed to this decision.

**Base of operations:** Mobile, Alabama and New York, New York.

**Known associates:** Hawkeye, former paramour, Daredevil, fellow adventurer, possibly linked romantically.

**Abilities:** Gymnast, master at Karate, judo, aikido, savate and boxing. Proficient in the use of most modern firearms, though she seldom uses them. Prefers wristlet weapons of her own design and construction. Weapon modified to fit occasion.



**TOP-SECRET**

Daredevil

**SHIELD - TOP SECRET - SHIELD**

**Subject:** Daredevil  
**Code Name:** None  
**Height:** 6'0"  
**Weight:** 200 lbs.  
**Eyes:** Unknown  
**Hair:** Unknown

**Status:** Lone adventurer, though has been associated with several groups of paranormals: Avengers, Fantastic Four, Defenders, etc. Currently appears to be concentrating his crime-fighting efforts on organized and street-level crime, with only occasional run-ins with criminals classified as super villains.

**Base of operations:** New York City's Hell's Kitchen. Daredevil has apparently taken this troubled section of town under his wing and become its unofficial protector.

**Known associates:** Elektra (deceased), possible love interest.  
Natalia (Natasha) Romanova/Black Widow, fellow adventurer and perhaps lover.  
Matthew Michael Murdock, blind friend and disbarred attorney.

**Abilities:** Apparently has no so-called super powers, though runs with the crowd where those abilities are common. Olympic-class athlete and gymnast. Appears to be a master of a variety of martial arts, but a strict adherent to no one discipline. Only weapon subject appears to use is a billy-club affair that has some kind of grappling hook/line apparatus incorporated into it.

**Side note:** Several agents who have seen the subject in action — performing seemingly impossible physical feats — have hypothesized that Daredevil may have inhumanly keen senses. (Drug induced? Results of some unknown martial arts training? Mutation?) Further investigation along these lines is recommended.

*File Note: pretty  
fetched. What've  
those research boys  
been smoking?  
Nick  
Fury*



I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT  
ABOUT **LIFE AND DEATH**  
DURING THE PAST TWELVE  
HOURS.

WHEN SOMETHING  
SURROUNDS AND **MADLY**  
ENGULFS YOUR ENTIRE  
EXISTENCE, YOU CAN'T  
HELP BUT GIVE IT MORE  
THAN JUST CASUAL  
CONSIDERATION.



LIFE IS FLUID.



SOME 90% OF  
WHAT WE ARE IS  
MADE UP OF  
WATER.



WITHOUT  
THIS PRECIOUS  
LIQUID WE ARE  
NOTHING.



WE CEASE  
TO EXIST.



WE'RE DEAD.



THIS  
WATER'S  
CARRIED  
AROUND IN  
THIN-  
SKINNED  
SACKS.



WE MUST ALL BE  
INSANE TO RACE  
RECKLESSLY  
ABOUT...



... IN A WORLD  
FILLED WITH SO  
MANY SHARP  
AND POINTED  
DANGERS.



THAT'S JUST  
ASKING FOR  
TROUBLE.



THIS PLACE IS  
THOROUGHLY  
DRENCHED  
IN PRECIOUS  
FLUIDS.



THE WATERS OF  
LIFE ARE  
EVERYWHERE.



ON THE WALLS...  
ON THE FLOOR...  
EVERYWHERE...

SO WHY DOES  
THE PLACE SMELL  
SO OF DEATH?

I KNOW I'M LOSING  
IT. CAN'T HELP IT.

IT'S JUST THAT I'VE SPENT  
THE LAST HALF DAY  
HELPLESSLY WATCHING  
SHIELD AGENT WILSON  
BEING SLOWLY AND  
SADISTICALLY BUTCHERED.

ALL DONE.  
CHARLIE  
HONEY?

TIME ROSIE  
FINALLY GOT  
HER LICKS IN.

I NEVER TRULY  
KNEW SUCH INHUMAN  
DEPRAVITY WAS  
POSSIBLE.

THAT KIND OF  
HORROR WARPS  
REALITY, MAKES  
YOU STUPID  
WITH TERROR.

IT'S THE  
NIGHTMARE HOUR IN  
ROSE'S FUN-TIME  
SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

ROSE'S LITTLE  
MAN IS ALL TUCKERED  
OUT, AIN'T HE?

YOU DID  
GOOD, CHARLIE.  
A REAL  
MASTERPIECE.

CHARLIE KNOWS  
THE ART. NO ONE  
DOES IT BETTER.

SLEEP  
TIGHT,  
SUGAR.

GENIE,  
MEANIE,  
MINIE MO  
WHO WILL  
BE NEXT  
ONE TO  
DIE?

MAMMA  
SAYS IT'S  
AGENT  
BANCROFT'S  
TURN TO  
PLAY!

**NO!**

GET  
AWAY  
FROM HIM,  
YOU  
MANIAC!!

I RECOGNIZE A FUTILE  
GESTURE WHEN I  
INDULGE IN ONE, BUT  
I TRY ANYHOW.

RED, TEMPER  
TANTRUMS AND  
BAD MANNERS  
WILL GET YOU  
NOWHERE.

NOWHERE  
BUT...

**in PAINVILLE**

MY WORLD GOES  
CRIMSON.

BEEN  
HANGING  
TOO  
LONG.

NO STAMINA  
LEFT.

I TUMBLE  
OUT OF MY  
WORLD  
AND INTO  
MEMORY.

DISCIPLINE.

SPARE  
THE BLADE  
AND SPOIL  
THE CHILD.

ANNE BAXTER  
AND I MET IN  
RUSSIA, BACK  
WHEN I WAS  
A SOVIET  
AGENT.

SHE WAS WITH  
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY  
AND, DESPITE BEING ON  
DIFFERENT SIDES OF  
THE FENCE, WE BECAME  
FRIENDS.

ANNE HELPED  
ME ESCAPE  
WHEN I  
DECIDED TO  
DEFECT.

THE RELATIONSHIP  
OUTLASTED  
THE POLITICAL  
TENSIONS.





DEAD?  
HOW?

MURDERED.

BY  
WHO?



WE  
DON'T  
KNOW  
YET.



HOW'D  
SHE  
DIE?



YOU SURE  
YOU WANT  
TO KNOW?



YES.



A KNIFE.

SOMEONE  
BUTCHERED  
HER.



SHE WANTED  
YOU TO HAVE  
*THIS* IF ANYTHING  
EVER HAPPENED  
TO HER.



FREEDOM.

DOES THIS  
BIRD HAVE SOME  
SPECIAL  
SIGNIFICANCE?



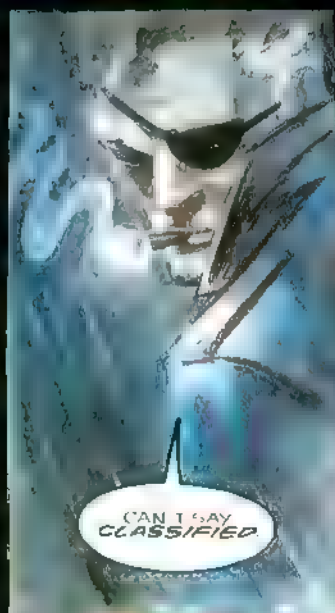
FREEDOM?

THAT'S  
WHAT THE  
STATUE'S  
CALLED.



I THINK I UNDERSTAND.

WHAT WAS CHRISTINE WORKING ON?



CAN I SAY CLASSIFIED.



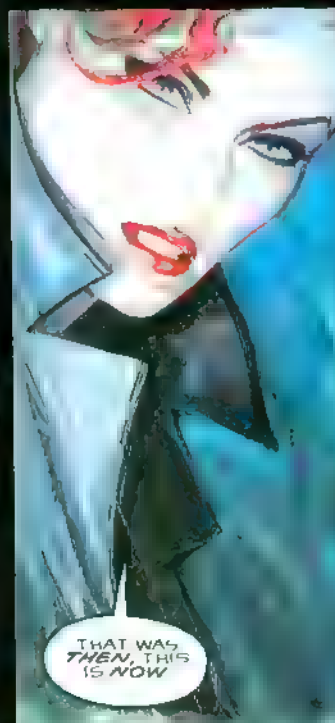
DON'T GIVE ME ANY OF THAT CRAP, FLURY.



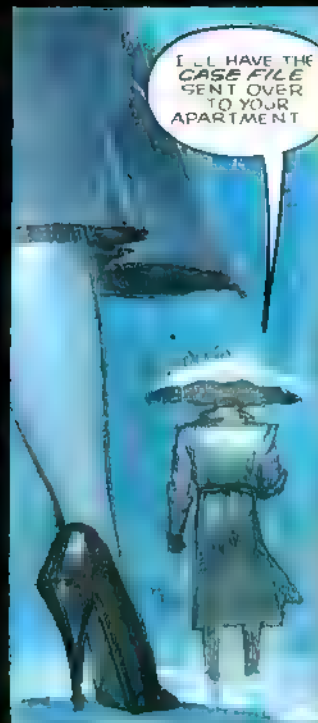
THIS IS A STRICTLY NEED TO KNOW SHIELD MATTER, TAS

NOW IF YOU WERE PART OF THE ASSIGNMENT

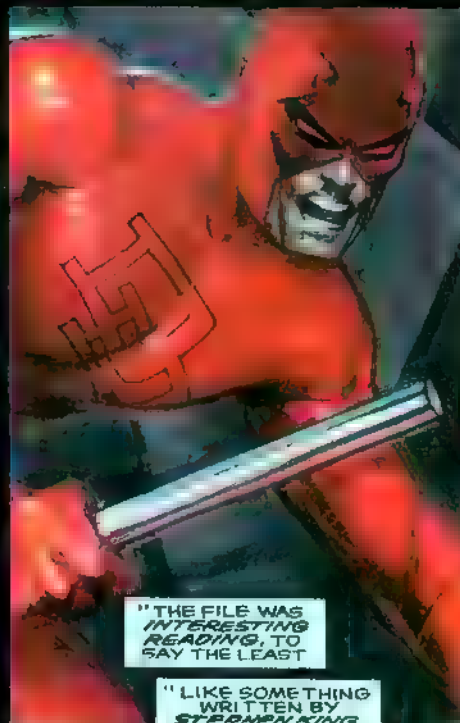
BUT YOU MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR DURING OUR LAST MEETING YOU DON'T WORK FOR SHIELD ANY LONGER



THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW



I'LL HAVE THE CASE FILE SENT OVER TO YOUR APARTMENT



"THE FILE WAS INTERESTING READING, TO SAY THE LEAST

"LIKE SOMETHING WRITTEN BY STEPHEN KING.

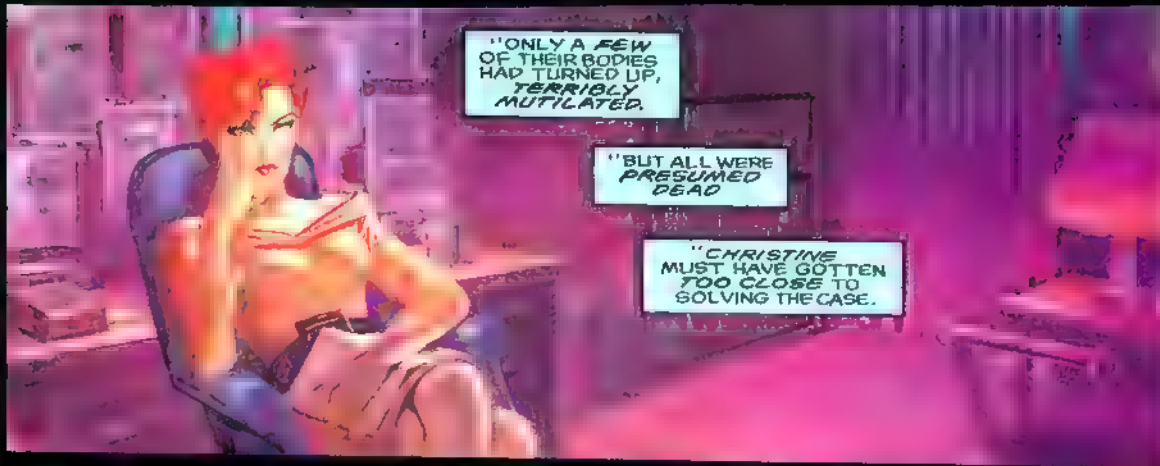


"SOMEONE WAS KILLING  
OFF FORMER **SHIELD**  
**ESPER** AGENTS AND  
OTHER LOW-LEVEL  
**TELEPATHS** WORKING  
IN GOVERNMENT  
RESEARCH.

"THEIR EXISTENCE CAME  
AS **NO SURPRISE** TO  
ME. I USED TO BE  
AN **AVENGER**

"THE **SHOCKER**  
WAS THAT  
SOMEONE HAD  
**MURDERED 10**  
OF THEM IN THE  
LAST THREE  
MONTHS

EACH OF THEM  
HAD BEEN LAST  
SEEN IN **LOWER**  
**MANHATTAN.**



"ONLY A **FEW**  
OF THEIR BODIES  
HAD TURNED UP,  
**TERRIBLY**  
**MUTILATED.**

"BUT ALL WERE  
**PRESUMED**  
**DEAD**

"CHRISTINE  
MUST HAVE GOTTEN  
**TOO CLOSE** TO  
SOLVING THE CASE.



"THEY FOUND HER  
REMAINS STUFFED  
DOWN A **SEWER**  
**DRAIN**

"FURY'S PEOPLE  
HAD RULED OUT  
ANY **FOREIGN**  
**CONNECTION**  
TO THE NETWORK



"HAD TO AGREE  
THE KILLINGS  
**WEREN'T**  
PROFESSIONAL

'MUCH TOO  
**SLOPPY** AND  
**PUBLIC.**

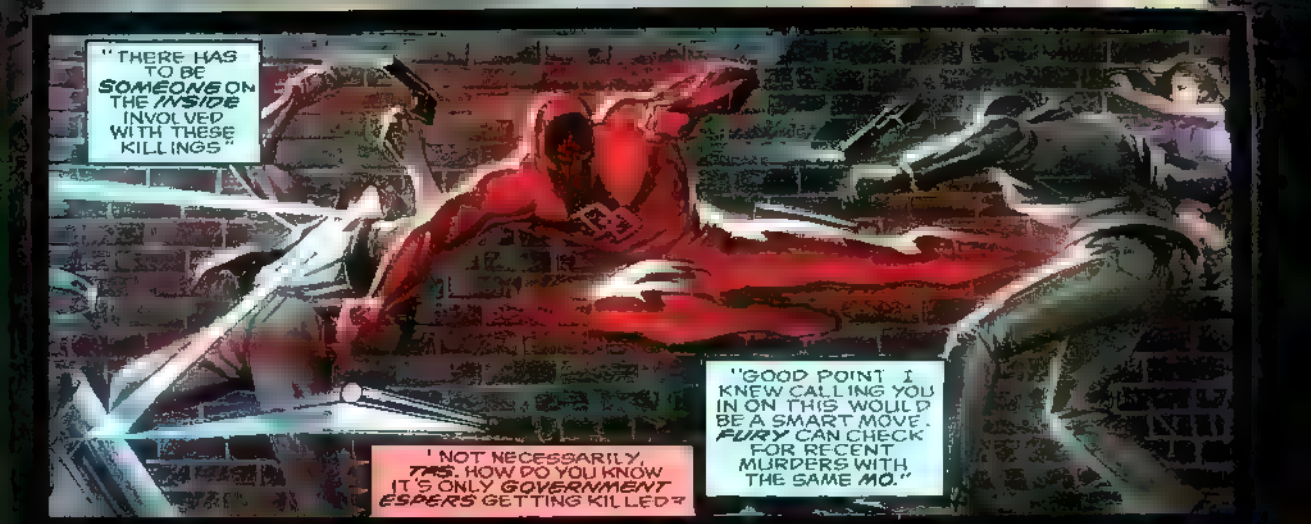


EVERYTHING  
POINTED TO THIS  
BEING THE WORK  
OF AN **AMATEUR  
PSYCHO.**

"BUT THAT DIDN'T  
**RING TRUE** WITH  
ME. **ONE BIG  
HOLE** IN THAT  
THEORY."

"HOW WOULD  
THE KILLER KNOW  
HIS VICTIMS WERE  
**TELEPATHS?**"

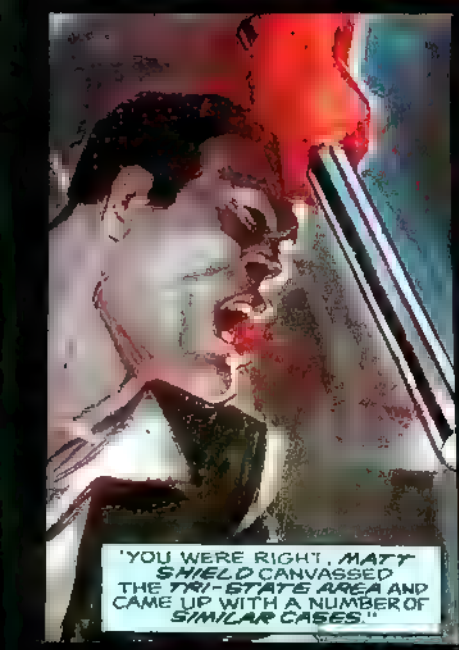
"RIGHT. THEIR  
**SPECIAL  
ABILITIES WERE  
CLASSIFIED  
INFORMATION."**



"THERE HAS  
TO BE  
**SOMEONE ON  
THE INSIDE**  
INVOLVED  
WITH THESE  
KILLINGS."

"GOOD POINT. I  
KNEW CALLING YOU  
IN ON THIS WOULD  
BE A SMART MOVE.  
**FURY CAN CHECK  
FOR RECENT  
MURDERS WITH  
THE SAME MO."**

"NOT NECESSARILY,  
**THIS.** HOW DO YOU KNOW  
IT'S ONLY **GOVERNMENT  
ESPERS** GETTING KILLED?"



"YOU WERE RIGHT, **MATT**.  
**SHIELD** CANVASSED  
THE **TRI-STATE AREA** AND  
CAME UP WITH A NUMBER OF  
**SIMILAR CASES."**



"HOW MANY?"



"40."

"THAT MANY  
GOOD LORD!"



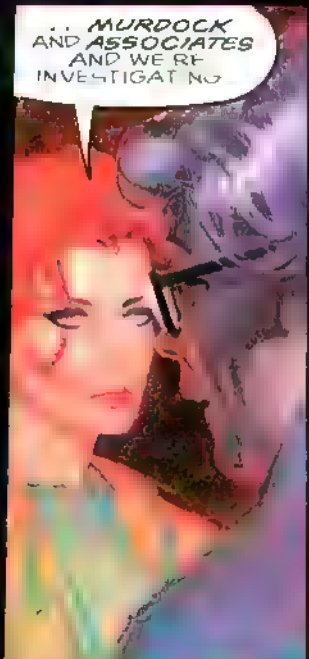
YOU FIGURE  
ANY OF THE VICTIMS  
MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
**LATENT**  
**TELEPATHS?**

MAYBE  
**ALL** OF  
THEM.

I FIGURE  
**MATT MURDOCK**  
AND HIS LEGAL AIL,  
**NATASHA ROMANOVA**,  
CAN HELP US  
FIND OUT



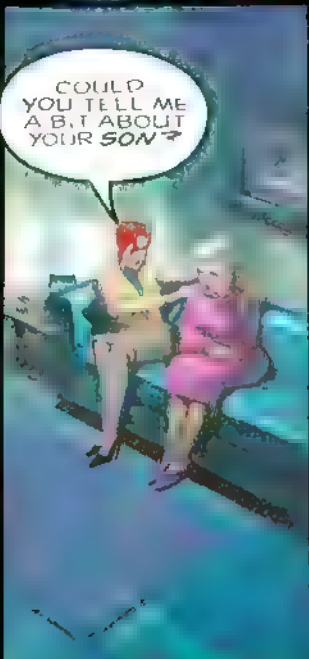
EXCUSE ME,  
MR. WALKER,  
I'M WITH



... **MURDOCK**  
AND ASSOCIATES  
AND WE'RE  
INVESTIGATING



THE **DEATH**  
OF YOUR  
DAUGHTER  
**SUSAN**



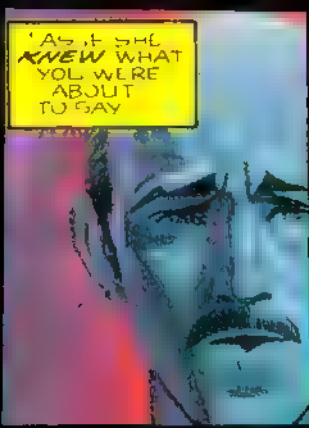
COULD  
YOU TELL ME  
A BIT ABOUT  
YOUR SON?



"HE WAS A  
**GOOD BOY**,  
NEVER ANY  
TROUBLE



"KIND OF  
**STRANGE**,  
SOMETIMES,  
THOUGH



"AS IF SHE  
**KNEW** WHAT  
YOU WERE  
ABOUT  
TO SAY



"LIKE SHE COULD  
**READ YOUR MIND**"



KILLED  
AT LEAST  
**50 TELEPATHS**  
THAT WE  
KNOW OF

BUT **NOW?**  
HOW DID HE OR  
SHE **DISCOVER**  
THEM?

MOST OF  
THE VICTIMS  
WEREN'T EVEN  
AWARE THEY  
POSSESSED  
LATENT ESP  
TALENT



YOU FIGURE  
OUR  
KILLER'S A  
**TELEPATH?**

MAKES  
SENSE



IT ALSO  
MAKES FOR  
VERY  
**DANGEROUS**  
PREY

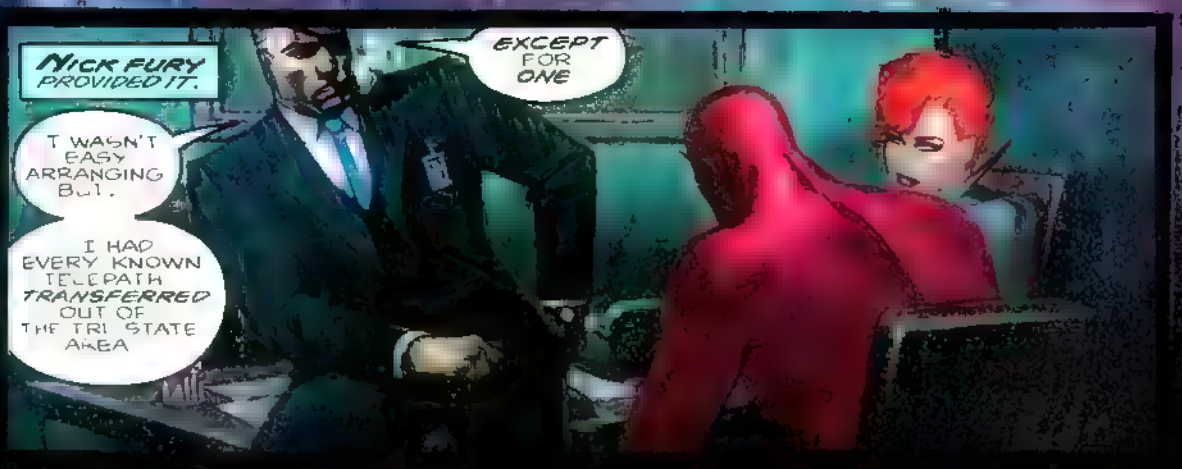


WHICH MEANS  
THERE'S ONLY  
**ONE WAY**  
TO TRACK DOWN  
THIS CRAZY.



WE'RE  
GOING TO NEED  
**BAIT** FOR  
THE TRAP

IT TAKES **ONE**  
TO  
**KNOW ONE**



**NICK FURY**  
PROVIDED IT.

I WASN'T  
EASY  
ARRANGING  
BUT.

I HAD  
EVERY KNOWN  
TELEPATH  
TRANSFERRED  
OUT OF  
THE TRI STATE  
AREA

EXCEPT  
FOR  
**ONE**

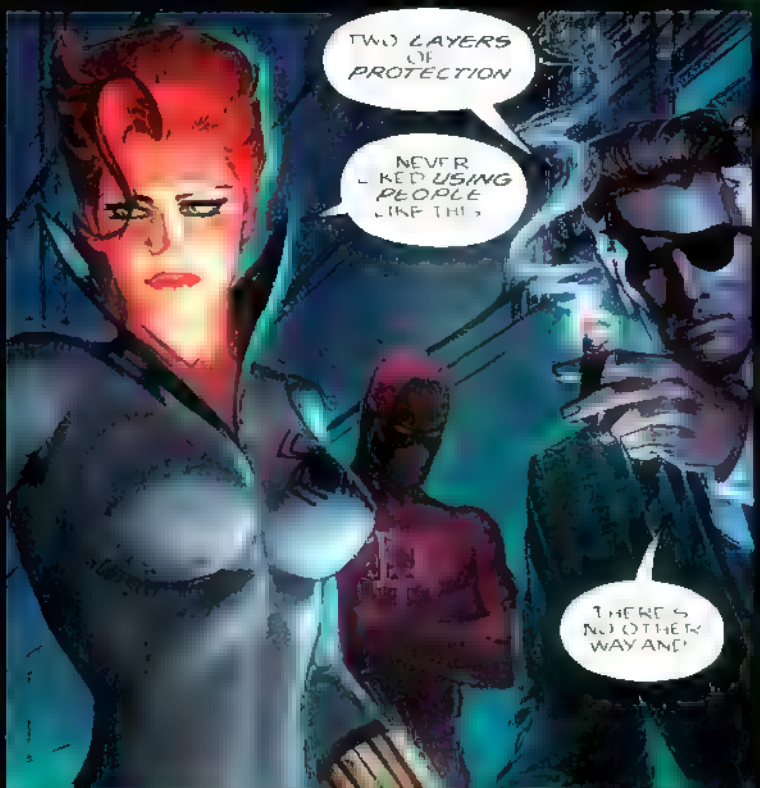


FORMER  
ESPIONAGE  
AGENT  
**FRED WILSON**,  
RETIRED. HE DOESN'T  
KNOW HE IS  
BEING  
UPPER. LIVES  
IN THE BIG  
APPLE

I'VE GOT **DEXTER  
BANCROFT** AND ANOTHER  
TOP **SHIELD** AGENT  
SURROUNDED BY  
FOLLOWING WILSON  
DAY AND NIGHT

NEITHER OF  
THEM KNOWS  
YOU'LL BE  
SHADOWING  
THEM

PERFECT



TWO LAYERS  
OF  
PROTECTION

NEVER  
KEEP USING  
PEOPLE  
LIKE THIS

THERE'S  
NO OTHER  
WAY AND

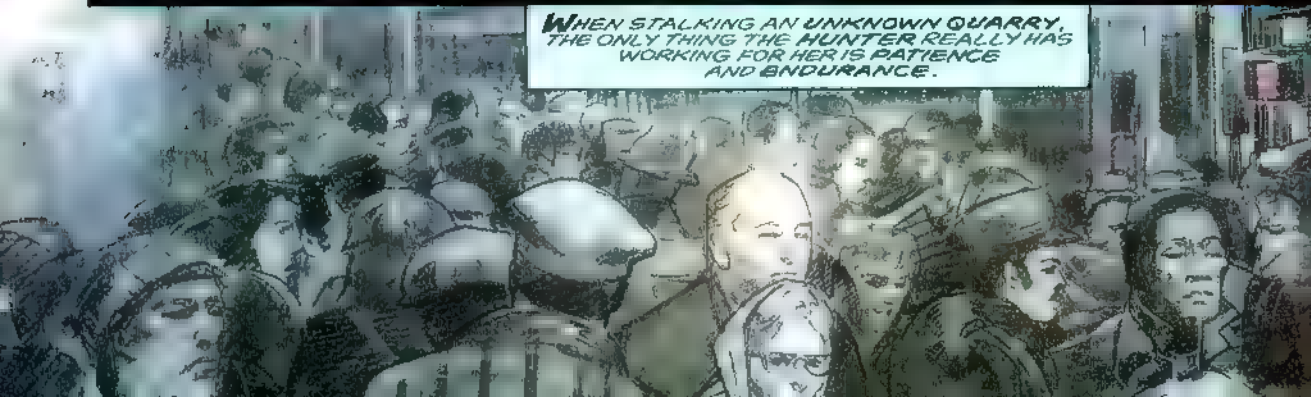


I KNOW I'M GOING  
TO NEED THAT  
**BUFFER ZONE** IF  
I WANT TO TAKE THE  
TELEPATHIC KILLER  
BY SURPRISE.

YOU  
STILL PLAY  
FOR HIGH  
STAKES,  
FURY

IT'S THE  
NATURE OF  
THE WORK

WHEN STALKING AN UNKNOWN QUARRY,  
THE ONLY THING THE HUNTER REALLY HAS  
WORKING FOR HER IS PATIENCE  
AND ENDURANCE.



LITERALLY  
MILLIONS  
OF PEOPLE  
WANDERING  
AROUND  
NEW YORK AND  
EVERY ONE  
A SUSPECT.

THIS KIND OF BAD GUY  
DOESN'T WEAR A SIGN  
AROUND HIS NECK  
PROCLAIMING  
HIS INTENTIONS

THE ANONYMOUS  
TERROR

THE KILLER  
THAT LOOKS  
JUST LIKE  
EVERYONE  
ELSE.

ONLY THE ACT  
REVEALS  
THE TRUTH.

8 DAYS WITH MATT  
RELIEVING ME WITH  
5 HOURS OF SLEEP  
EACH NIGHT

WONDERING IF  
THE KILLER  
MIGHT HAVE  
MOVED ON

OR GONE AFTER  
SOME OTHER TELEPATH  
UNKNOWN TO US

NOT KNOWING

UNTIL

IT WAS LIKE HITTING  
THE LOTTERY.

THE HEART WAS  
PUMPING PURE  
ADRENALINE.

I PRAYED THIS  
WASN'T JUST SOME  
RANDOM NEW YORK  
MUGGING

THE DOUBT  
DIDN'T HOLD ME  
BACK ANY

MY 125 POUNDS  
CRASHED DOWN ON  
HIM LIKE A TON  
OF BRICKS.

SO YOU CAN  
IMAGINE  
MY SHOCK  
WHEN HE  
DIDN'T STAY  
DOWN.

READYED  
MYSELF  
TO RIP INTO  
HIM WITH  
EVERYTHING  
I HAD

WHICH IS WHY  
THE VAN DOOR  
CAUGHT ME  
BY SURPRISE.



CAUGHT FLAT-FOOTED LIKE  
SOME RANK AMATEUR

SHOULD HAVE  
USED MY WIDOW'S  
BITE RIGHT OFF

A DEADLY MISTAKE.

ONE NOT ONLY  
I WOULD HAVE  
TO PAY FOR.

A LIFE  
FULL OF  
SHOULD  
OFS

BANCROFT

WILSON

"THEY'VE LOADED  
ALL THREE INTO  
THE VAN AND ARE  
HEADING UPTOWN."

I REPEAT TAKE  
NO ACTION,  
DAREDEVIL



JUST USE  
THAT TRACKING  
DEVICE TO FOLLOW  
THE SIGNAL FROM  
THE BUG WE PLANTED  
IN THE WIDOW'S  
BRACELET.

I'VE GOT  
A SPECIALLY  
EQUIPPED  
SQUAD ON  
THE WAY

LET THEM  
PLAY HERO  
THIS TIME

WHY  
SHOULD  
I?



BECAUSE THAT  
PAIR ALREADY  
TOOK OUT  
ONE OF YOUR  
SUPER HERO  
HOTSHOTS

ISN'T THAT  
ENOUGH  
REASON?

LET  
THE PROS  
HANDLE  
IT



ONLY IF  
THE PROS  
SHOW UP  
IN TIME.

"THEY'RE HEADING UP  
PARK AVENUE,  
AROUND 75TH STREET

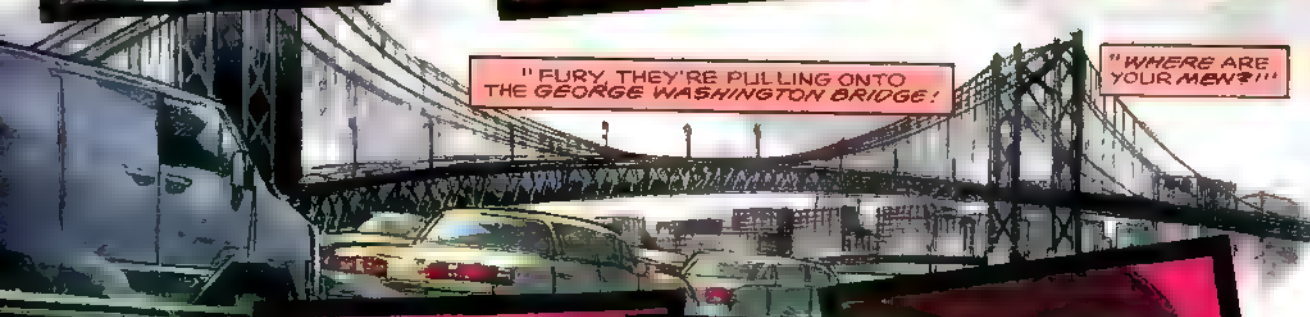
"I DON'T LIKE  
THIS, FURY!"



I'M  
GOING  
IN



THEN  
MOVE IT,  
FLRY!  
**HURRY!**



"WHERE ARE  
YOUR MEN?"





BUT SOMETIMES  
INTENTIONS  
ARE BEYOND  
REALIZATION,  
EVEN FOR US  
SUPER HERO  
HOTSHOTS

UNUSUALLY  
LIGHT TRAFFIC  
AND THE VAN HITS  
THE FAST LANE

I NEED  
WHEELS.



IN A MAD RUSH  
I PICK A TAXI  
JUST PULLING ONTO  
THE BRIDGE

A BIG MISTAKE.

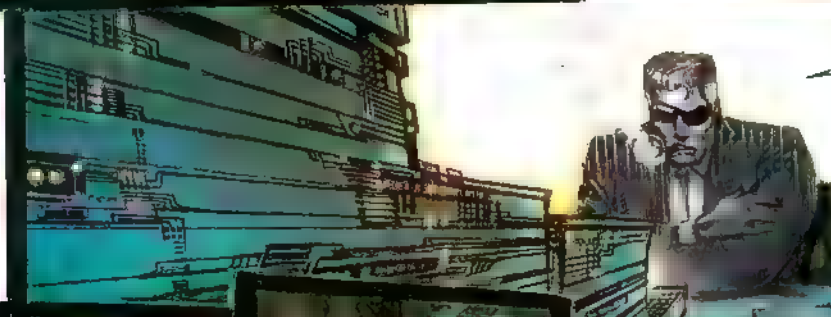


A BLIND MAN AT THE WHEEL OF A CAB! EVERY NEW YORKER'S NIGHTMARE

IT'S NOT UNTIL I'M BEHIND THE WHEEL THAT I REALIZE THE TAXI'S RUNNING ON ONLY 7 OF ITS 8 CYLINDERS.

THE CABBIE IS QUITE GRACIOUS ABOUT RELINQUISHING HIS VEHICLE.

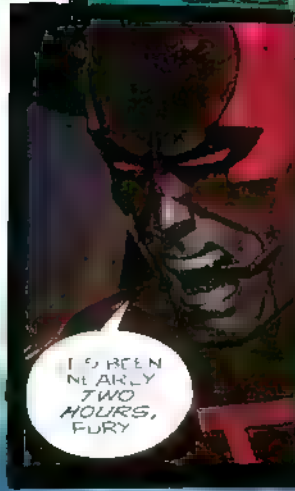
THE VAN'S HAULING ASH. I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO OVERTAKE THEM.



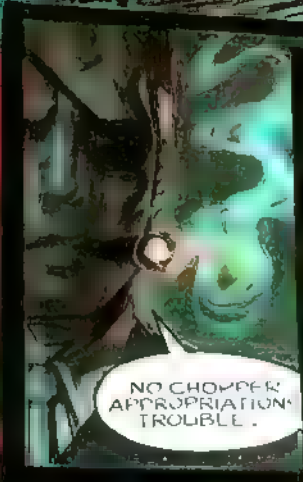
JUST STAY WITHIN RANGE OF THE BUG'S TRANSMISSIONS!

A CHOPPER WILL BE PICKING UP THE SPECIAL SQUAD.

THEY'LL BE WITH YOU WITHIN THE HOUR!



I'VE BEEN NEARLY TWO HOURS, FURY



NO CHOPPER APPROPRIATION! TROUBLE.



I'VE LOST THE SIGNAL, FURY! THEY'RE OUT OF RANGE!



WHAT'S YOUR PRESENT LOCATION?

"YOU GOT ME,

"SOMEWHERE IN THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS!"



OF COURSE I WOKE UP WITHOUT  
MY WEAPONS BRACELETS,  
HANGING LIKE A SLAB OF MEAT

EVERY TIME I COME AROUND,  
SOMEONE'S SCREAMING.

PLEASE  
NO MORE  
PAIN

BUT THAT'S  
WHY I DO IT  
SUGAR

THERE'S ART  
IN THE AGONY

YOU'RE  
MY CANVAS

MY IN PROGRESS  
PORTRAIT  
OF DEATH

A MASTER  
WORK  
IN THE  
MAKING

LIFE IS  
FINITE!

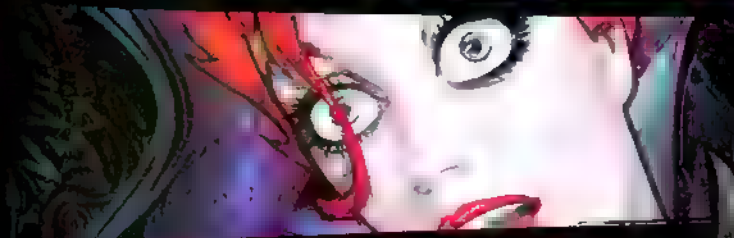
ART IS  
FOREVER!



AND I REALIZE THE ART  
IS THE PSYCHIC SAVORING  
OF EXCRUCIATING  
TORMENT!

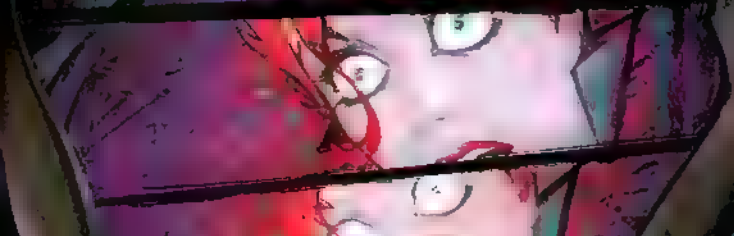
ROSE REVELS IN  
THE MENTAL DREAD AND  
THE PHYSICAL PAIN!

VAMPIRE!



THE ECSTASY IS  
MORE THAN ROSE  
CAN CONTAIN!

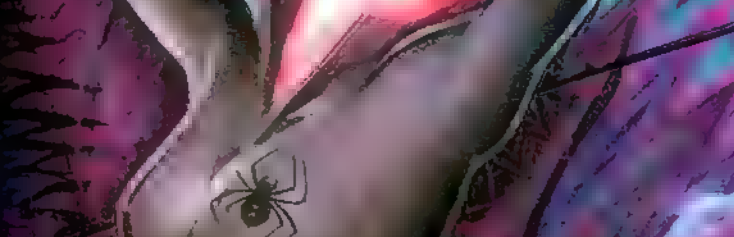
I'M ENGULFED  
IN THE PSYCHIC  
OVERFLOW OF  
HER PLEASURE!



AND REALITY  
TAKES AN UNEXPECTED  
LEFT TURN

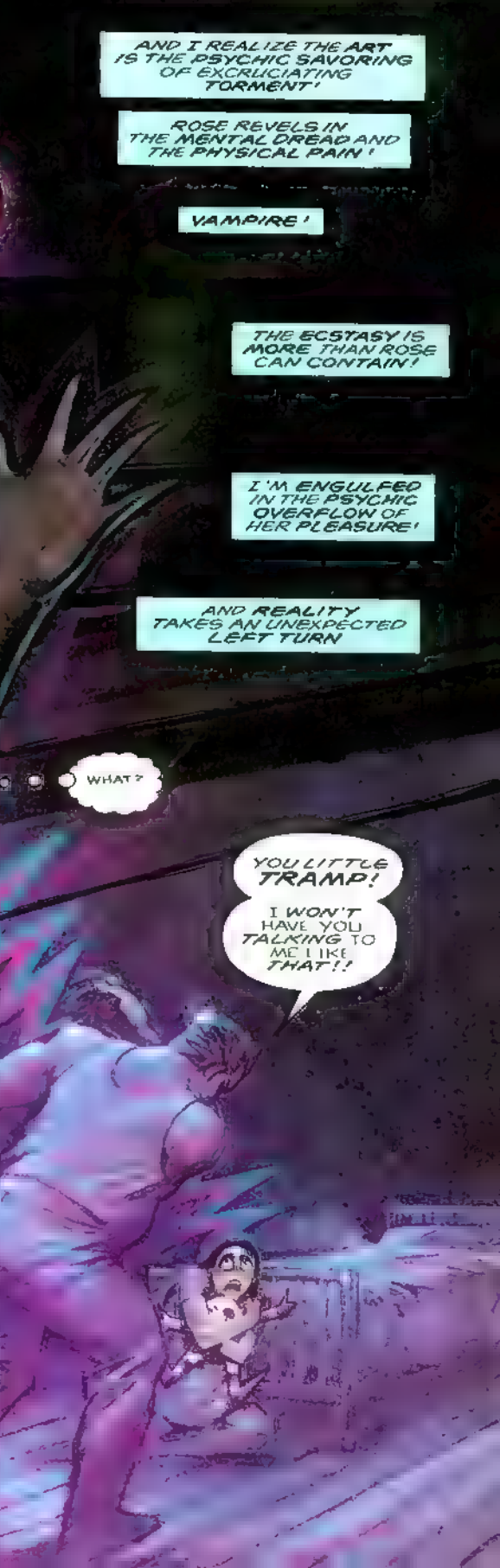
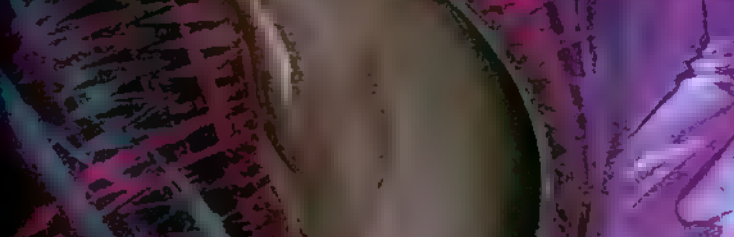


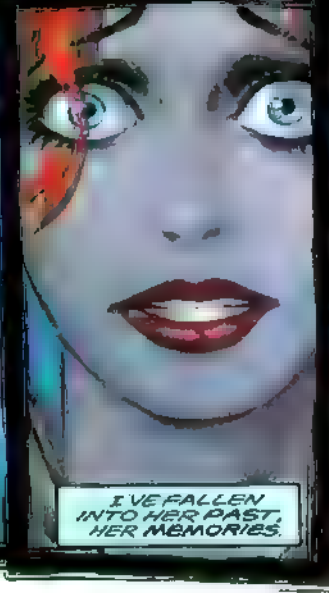
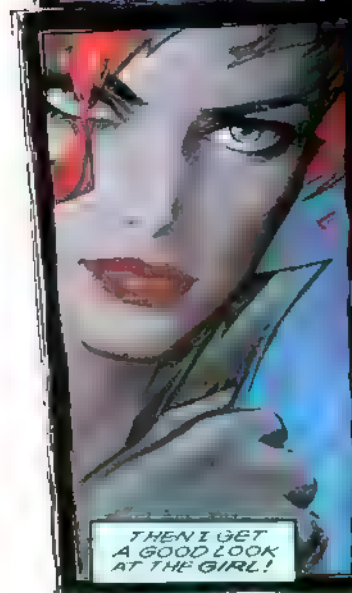
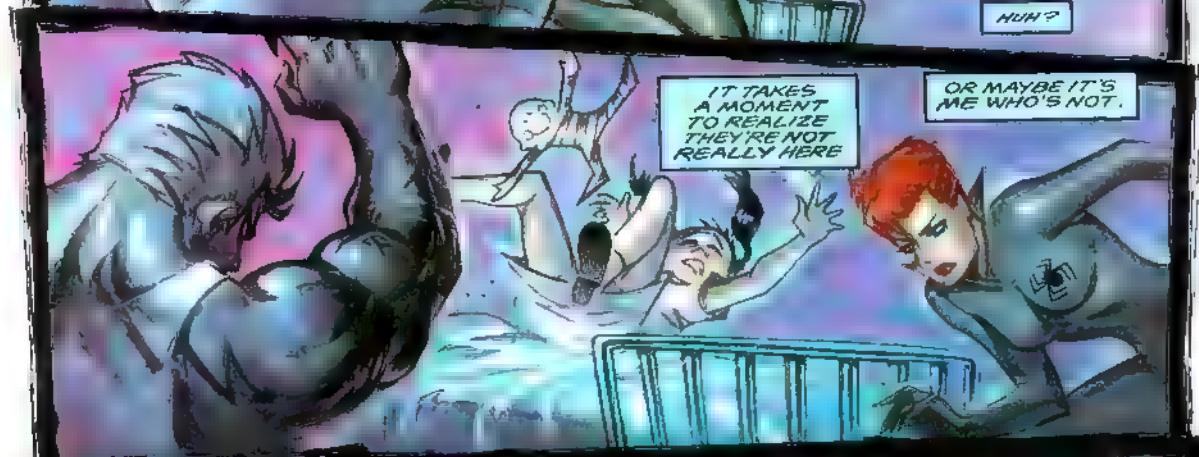
WHAT?



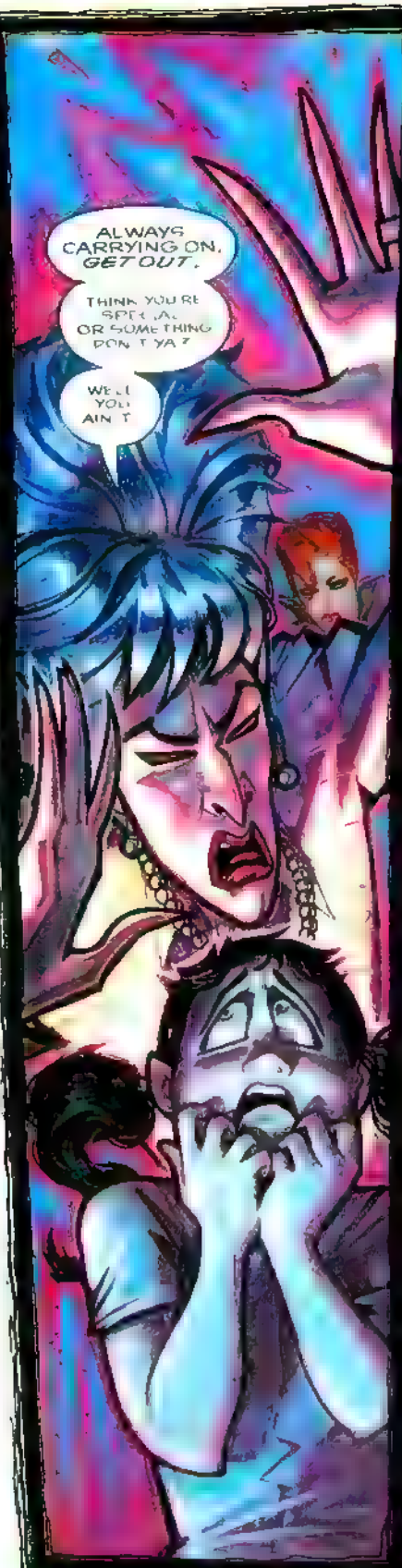
YOU LITTLE  
TRAMP!

I WON'T  
HAVE YOU  
TALKING TO  
ME LIKE  
THAT!!









ALWAYS  
CARRYING ON,  
GET OUT.

THINK YOU'RE  
SPECIAL  
OR SOMETHING  
DON'T YA?

WELL  
YOU  
AIN'T



A NIGHTMARE  
CHILDHOOD.

NO WONDER SHE  
TURNED INTO SUCH  
A MONSTER.



STILL, IT'S  
NO EXCUSE.

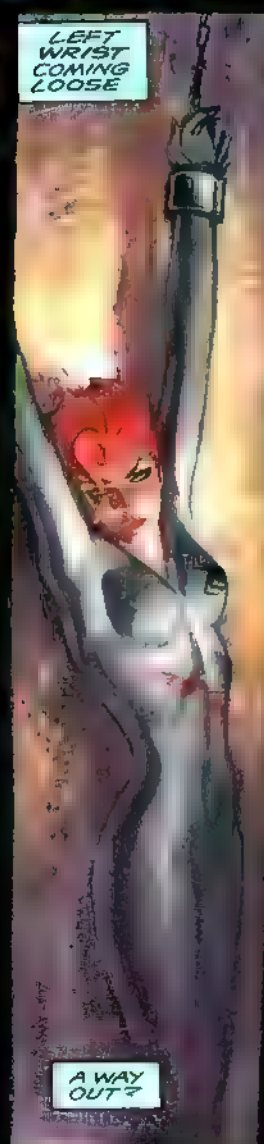
SO WHO AM  
I CRYING FOR?  
HER OR ME?



TEARS

SWEAT

TWELVE HOURS  
WITHOUT  
WATER,  
DEHYDRATING.



LEFT  
WRIST  
COMING  
LOOSE

A WAY  
OUT?



WORK THE WRIST,  
BUT BE COOL.

DON'T LET  
ROSE SEE  
WHAT YOU'RE  
DOING.

DON'T THINK  
ABOUT  
IT!!

THE SNOW KEEPS  
COMING DOWN.

THE STREETS ARE  
GETTING  
DANGEROUS.



LOST CONTACT  
WITH FURY  
HOURS AGO.

JUST KEEP DRIVING  
HOPING TO PICK UP  
THE BUG'S SIGNAL.

RADAR SENSE AND  
ADRENALINE: THE ONLY  
THINGS KEEPING ME  
ON THE ROAD.

ONLY HOPE TO  
SAVE NATASHA

I WON'T LET  
YOU DOWN, GAL.  
I PROMISE.

I REMEMBER  
OUR NIGHTS  
TOGETHER,  
THE THINGS  
WE SHARED.

I WON'T LET  
THEM KILL YOU!  
I WON'T!!!"

GO AHEAD  
AND  
TAKE IT

I WANT  
YOU TO  
HAVE IT.



DEAR GOD, ROSE  
ACTUALLY HAS BANCROFT  
UNDER HER MENTAL  
CONTROL!

A MORE  
POWERFUL  
TELEPATH  
THAN I  
SUSPECTED!

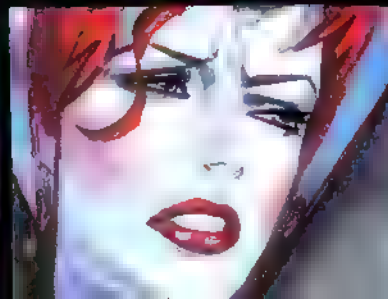
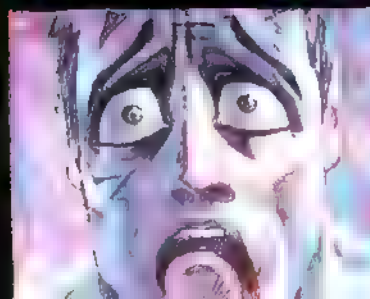
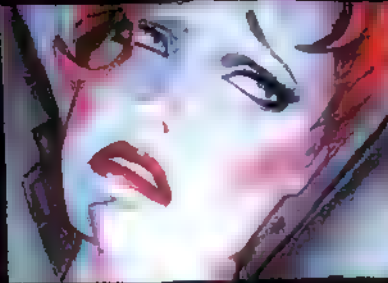
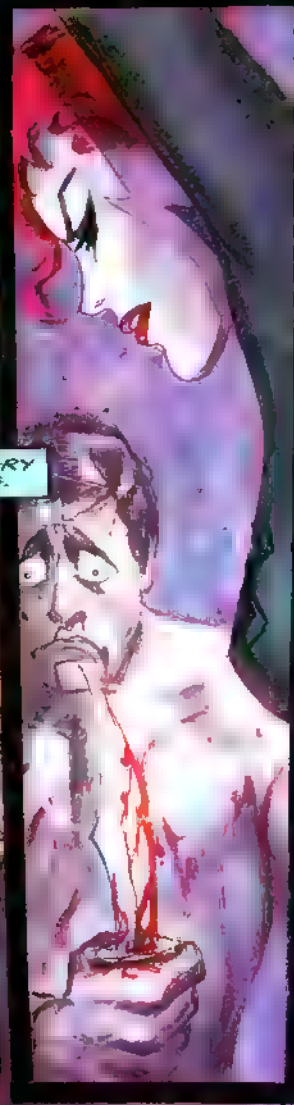
AN OFFER  
HE CAN'T  
REFUSE.

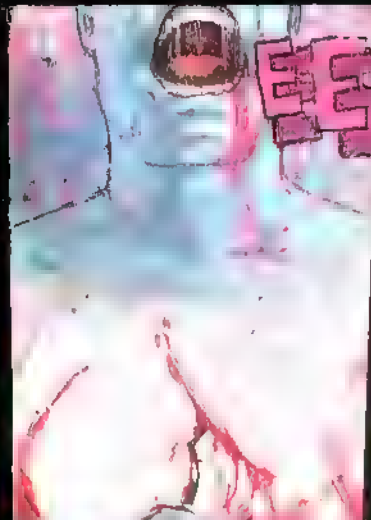
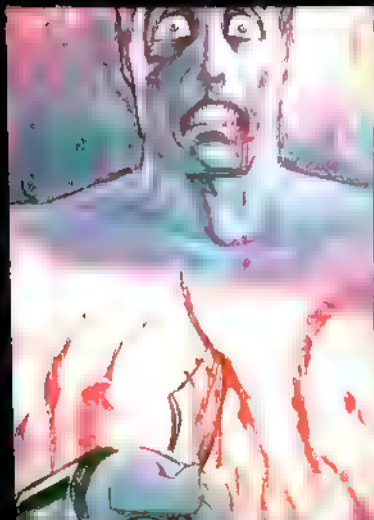
I SEE TWO  
POSSIBLE  
SCENARIOS  
COMING  
DOWN HERE

NEITHER VERY  
APPEALING.

TAKE THE  
KNIFE

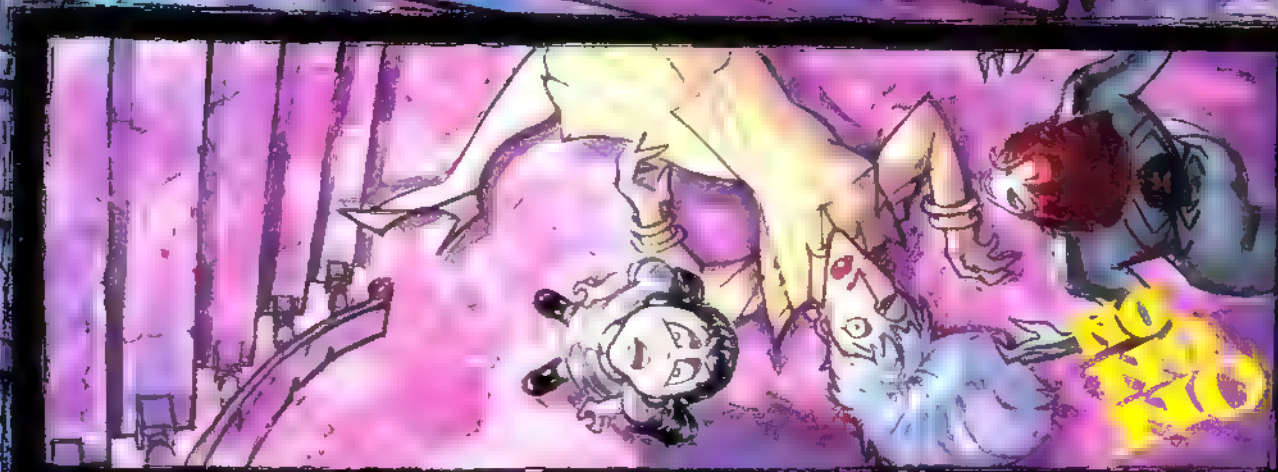
YOU KNOW  
WHAT TO DO  
WITH IT.





EEEE





CRIMSON LIGHTS  
FLASHING  
IN THE NIGHT.

YES SHE WAS  
DRINKING  
PRETTY  
HEAVILY.

I WAS ALWAYS  
WARN NG HER  
TO BE CAREFUL ON  
THOSE RICKETY  
OLD STAIRS,  
BUT...

SCARLET FLUID  
DRYING ON A  
TENEMENT  
STAIRCASE.

A CHILD THAT  
DOES NOT CRY

AND A PHANTOM  
THAT CANNOT  
SPEAK THE TRUTH.

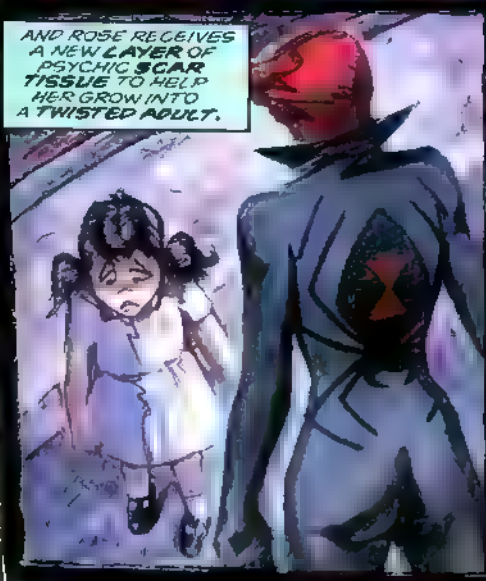


LIES  
PRESENTED  
AND  
ACCEPTED.



SINS GOING  
UNPUNISHED

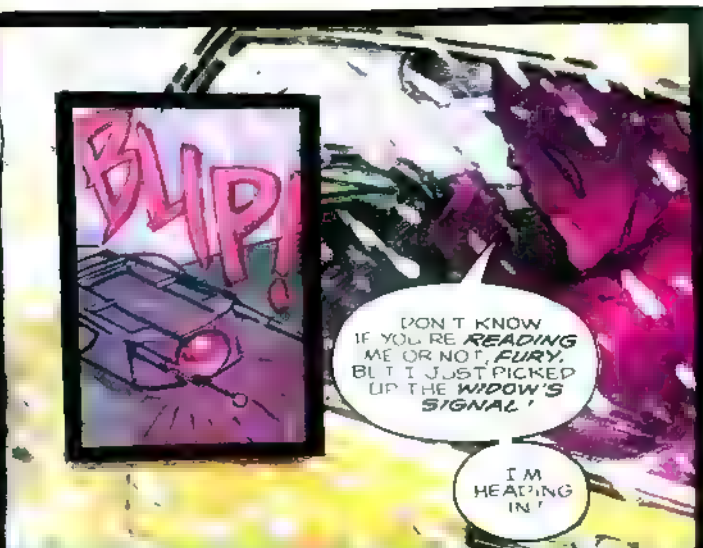
AND ROSE RECEIVES  
A NEW LAYER OF  
PSYCHIC SCAR  
TISSUE TO HELP  
HER GROW INTO  
A TWISTED ADULT.



HEY,  
LADY

SHE  
SEES  
ME!!





THE QUESTION IS  
HOW MUCH *FURTHER*  
CAN I GO IN  
THIS *TAXI*?

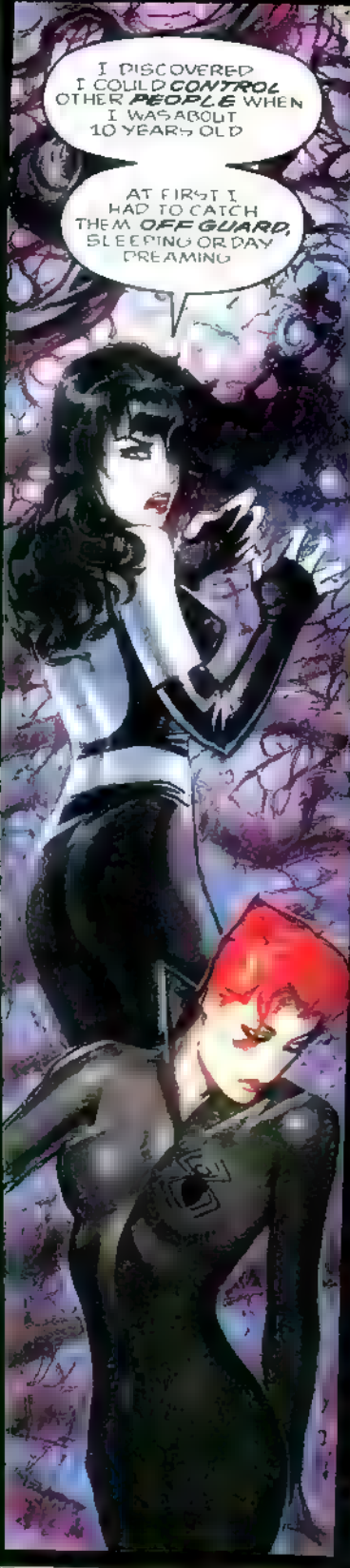
18 INCHES  
OF SNOW ON  
THE ROADS.



DRIVING'S BECOME  
NEAR *IMPOSSIBLE*.

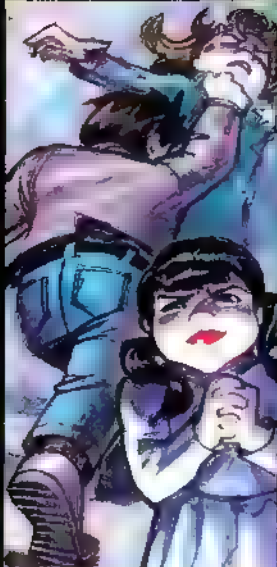
LOOKS LIKE I'LL  
BE *HOOFING IT*  
BEFORE LONG.





I DISCOVERED  
I COULD CONTROL  
OTHER **PEOPLE** WHEN  
I WAS ABOUT  
10 YEARS OLD

AT FIRST I  
HAD TO CATCH  
THEM **OFF GUARD**,  
SLEEPING OR DAY  
DREAMING



"STARTED OFF JUST  
**TOYING** WITH  
MY CLASSMATES

"**HARMLESS**  
**PRANKS**  
MOST OF  
THE TIME

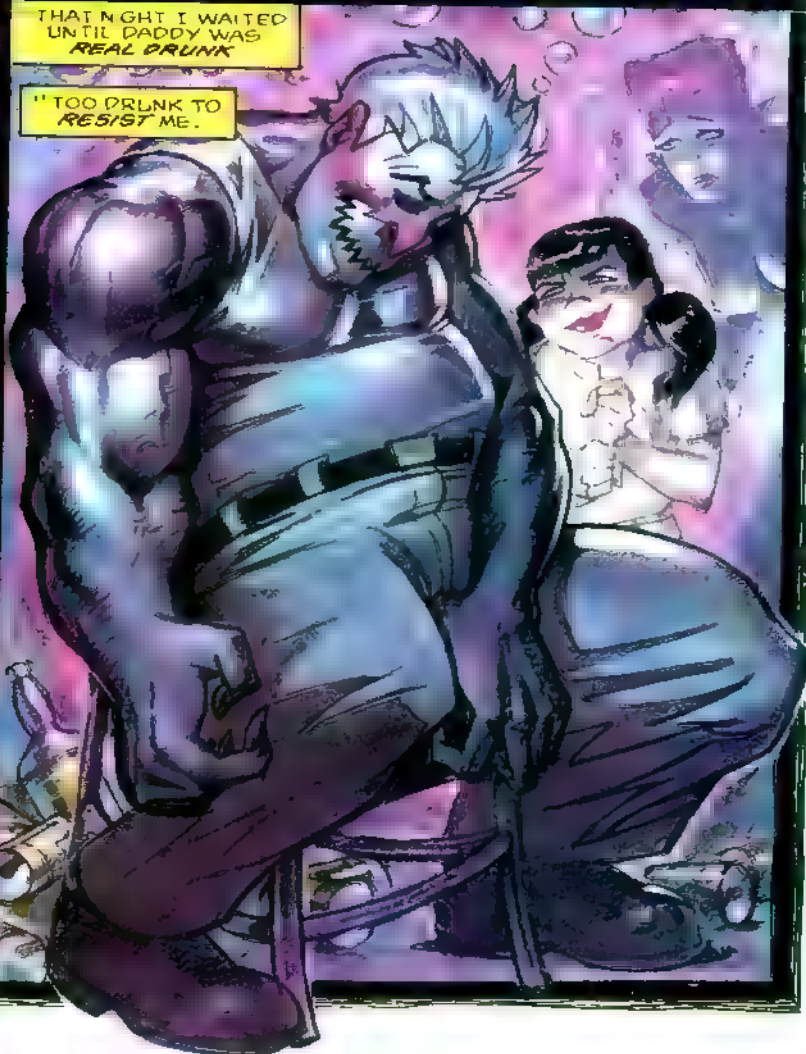


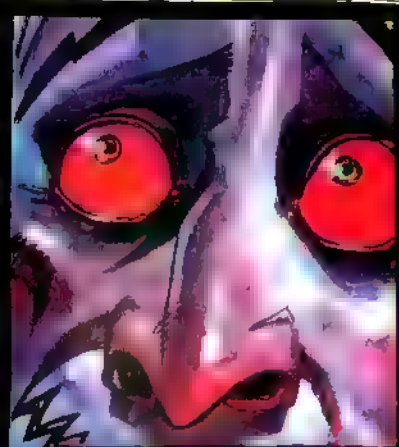
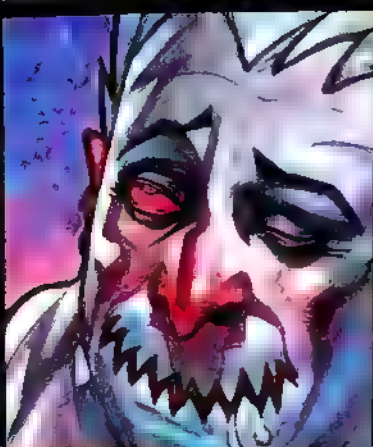
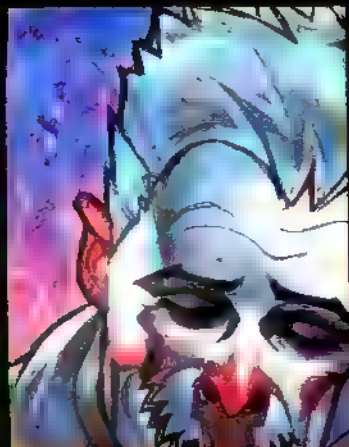
"BUT YOU KNOW  
WHAT THEY SAY  
ABOUT **POWER**  
**CORRUPTING**



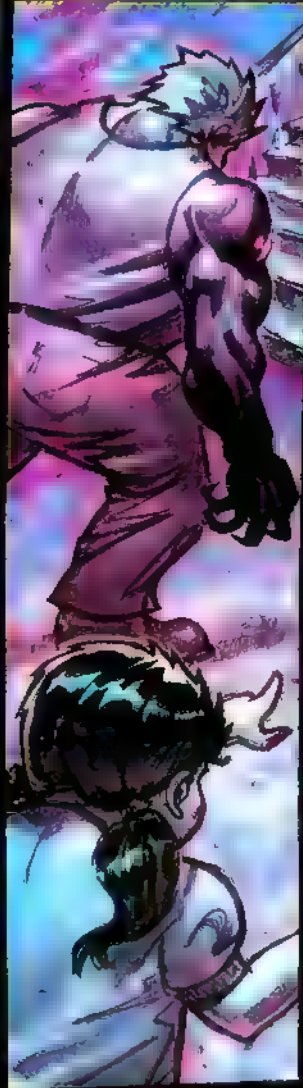
THAT NIGHT I WAITED  
UNTIL DADDY WAS  
**REAL DRUNK**

"TOO DRUNK TO  
**RESIST** ME.

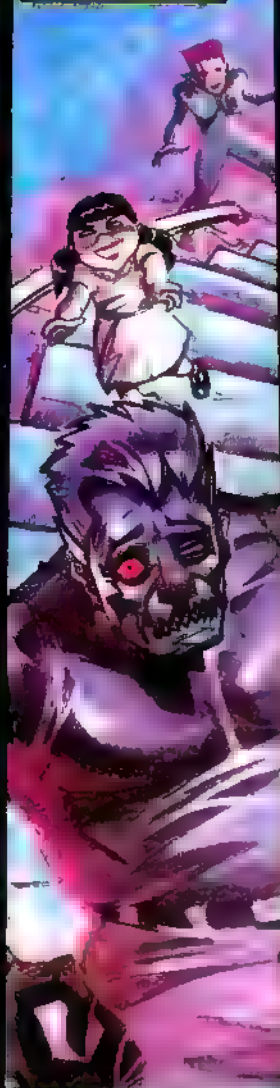




"I LEFT H.M. **JUST**  
ENOUGH **AWARENESS**  
TO KNOW WHAT WAS  
COMING DOWN

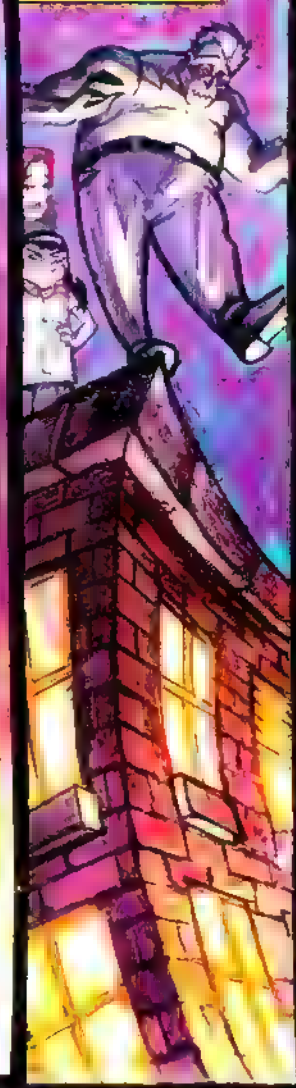


"BUT HE DIDN'T  
HAVE THE **WILL**  
TO DO ANYTHING  
ABOUT IT

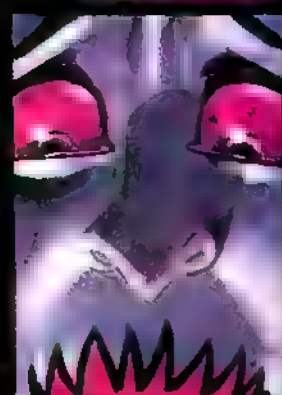
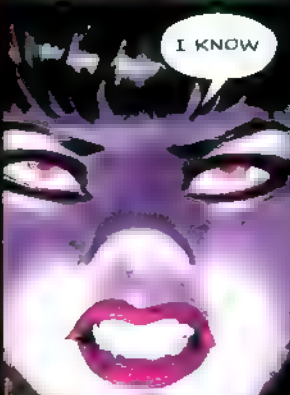
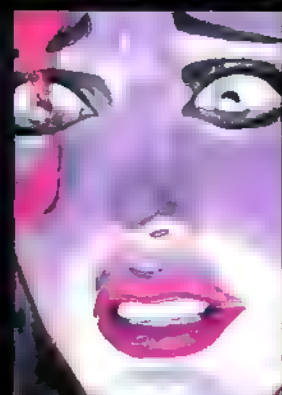
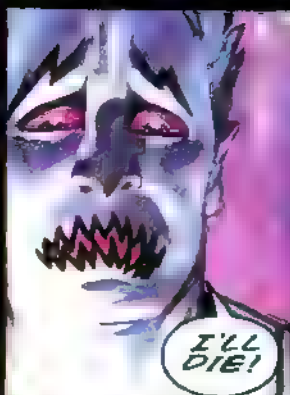
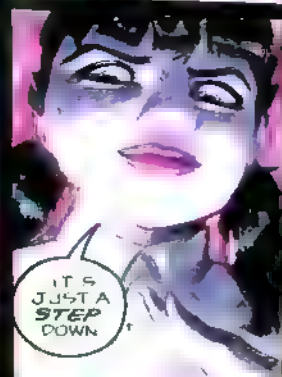
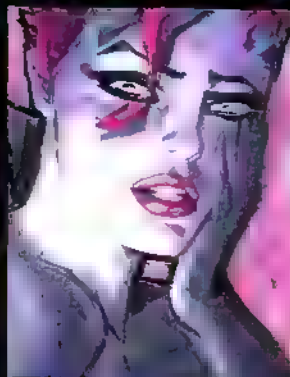
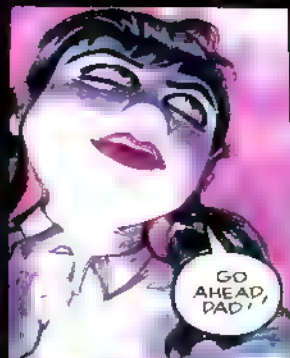


"MY LUMBERING  
**PARENTAL**  
**PUPPET** WENT TO  
THE **ROOF**  
WITHOUT  
COMMENT OR  
COMPLAINT

"PERFECTLY  
OBEDIENT,  
**DISCIPLINED**  
WITHOUT ME "



"EVER HAVING  
TO LAY A HAND  
ON HIM"





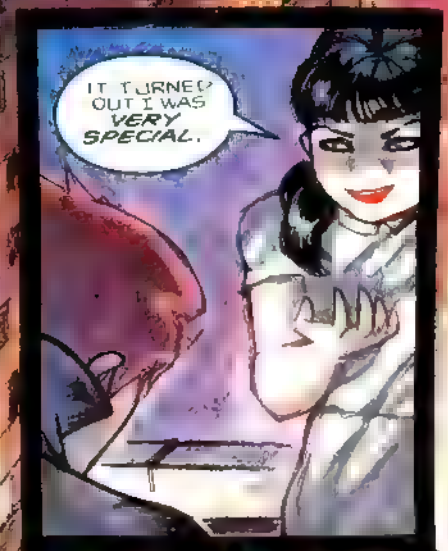
I GUESS  
THIS MAKES  
ME AN  
ORPHAN

HOW  
SAD



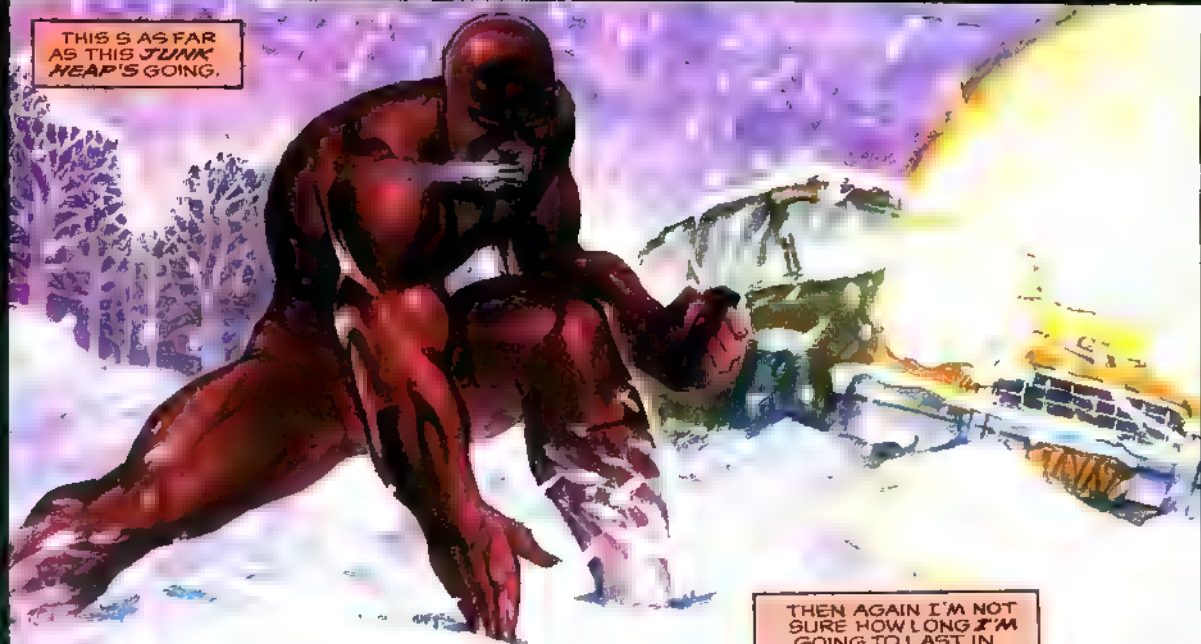
BUT YOU  
KNOW,  
MOMMA  
WAS  
WRONG

DEAD  
WRONG



IT TURNED  
OUT I WAS  
VERY  
SPECIAL.

THIS IS AS FAR  
AS THIS *JUNK*  
HEAP'S GOING.



THEN AGAIN I'M NOT  
SURE HOW LONG I'M  
GOING TO LAST IN  
THIS *WEATHER*.

AN *HOUR*, MAYBE *TWO*.

IF THE *WIDOW'S*  
ANY FARTHER AWAY  
THAN *THAT...*



.. WE'RE BOTH  
*HISTORY*."





BUT YOU FOUND YOU WEREN'T QUITE AS **SPECIAL** AS YOU THOUGHT, DIDN'T YOU?

MET MY **FIRST TELEPATH** IN A BAR 'N JERSEY GOT HIM **DRUNK** AND **SLIT** HIS THROAT

HE **HAD** TO DIE THEY **ALL** DO

OTHERWISE I WON'T BE **SPECIAL**



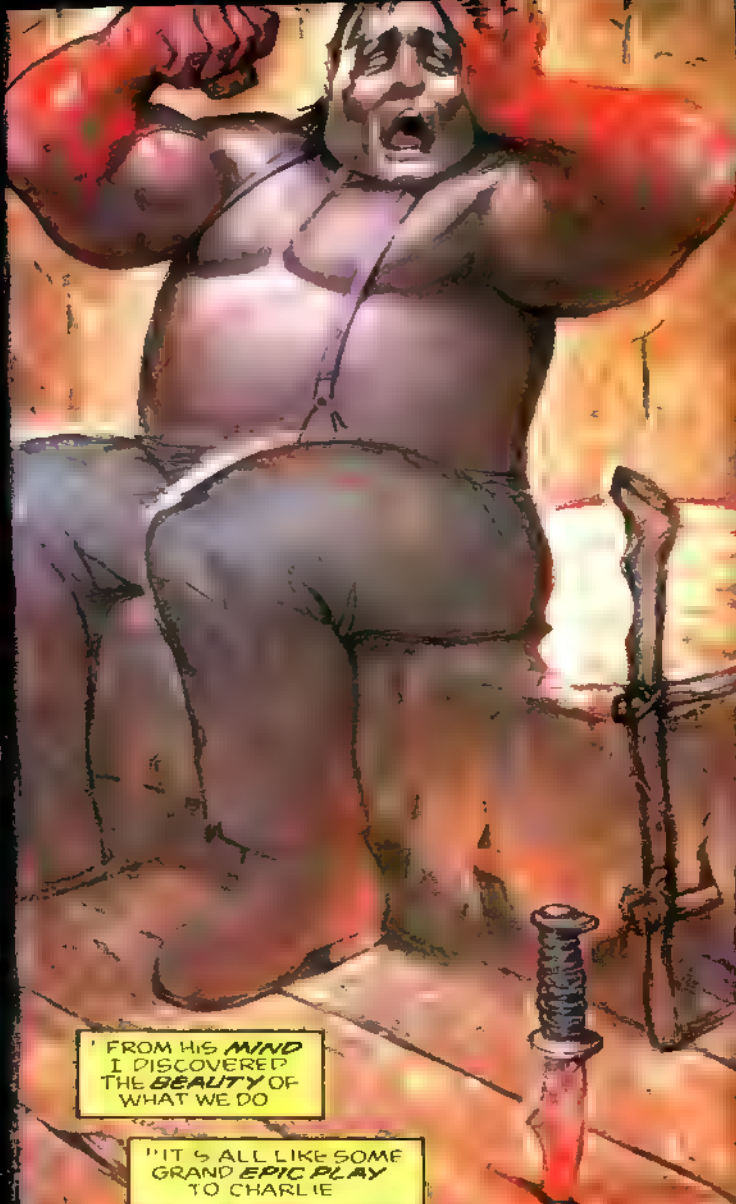
"WHAT ABOUT **CHARLIE**?"

"HE'S JUST YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL **SERIAL KILLER**."



"MET HIM ALONG THE WAY AND NOW USE HIM FOR **HEAVY WORK**."

"BUT CHARLIE DID **TEACH** ME ABOUT THE **ART**."

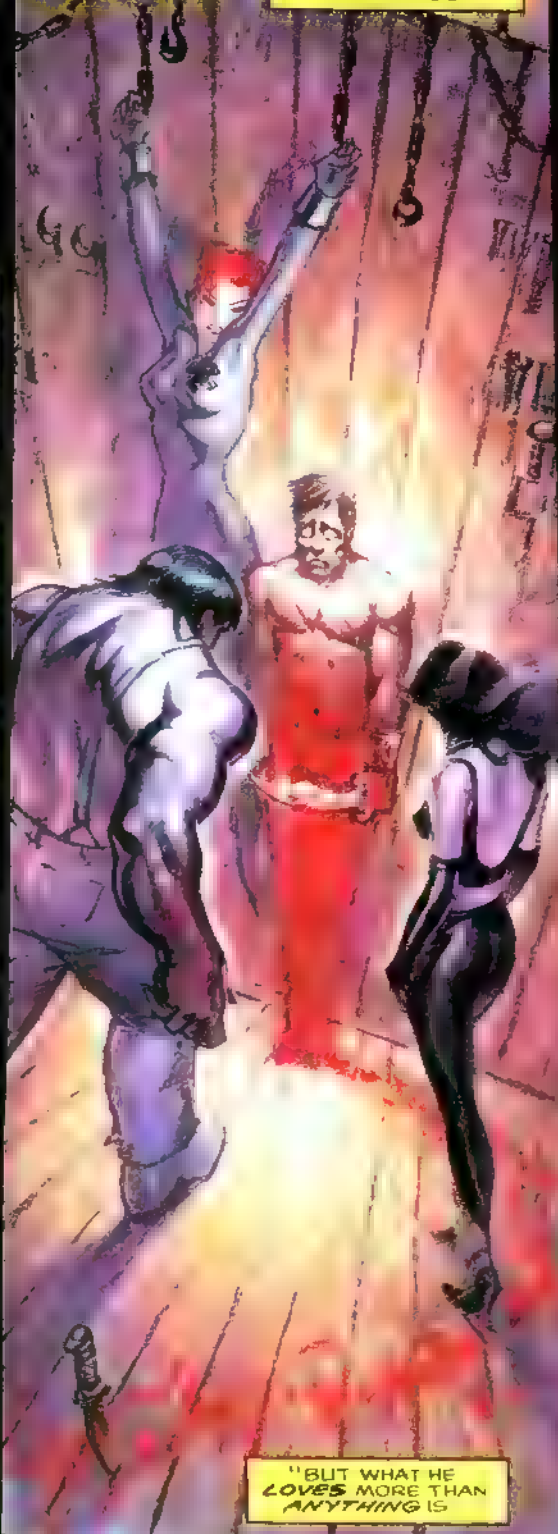


FROM HIS **MIND** I DISCOVERED THE **BEAUTY** OF WHAT WE DO

"IT'S ALL LIKE SOME **GRAND EPIC PLAY** TO CHARLIE"

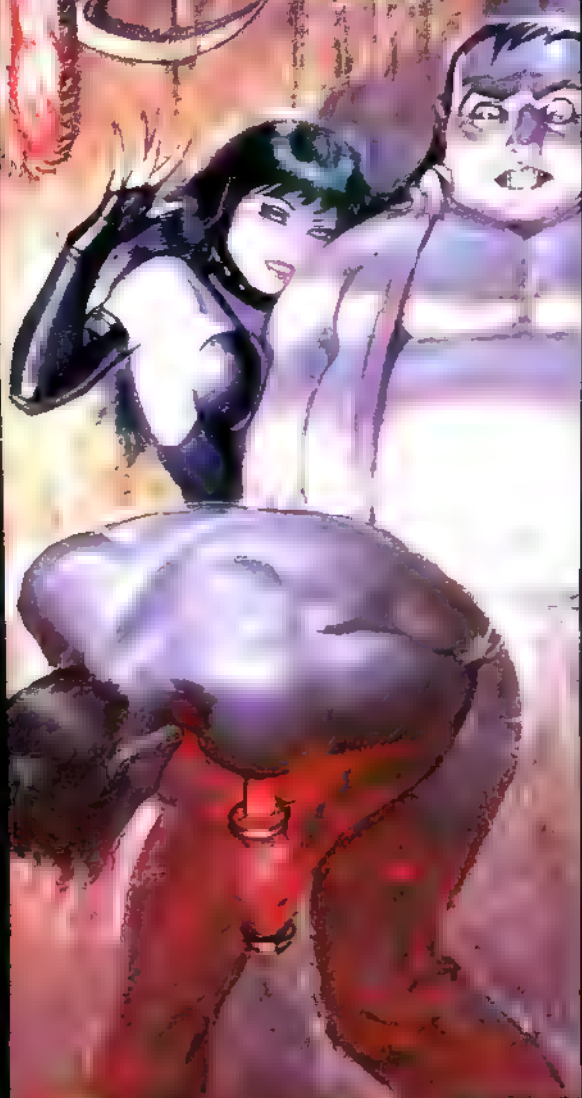
THIS SHACK IS  
HIS STAGE. HE  
BUILT IT AND  
CHERISHES IT

HE RELISHES  
THE DRAMATIC  
BUILD-UP,  
THE LIFE AND DEATH  
SUSPENSE

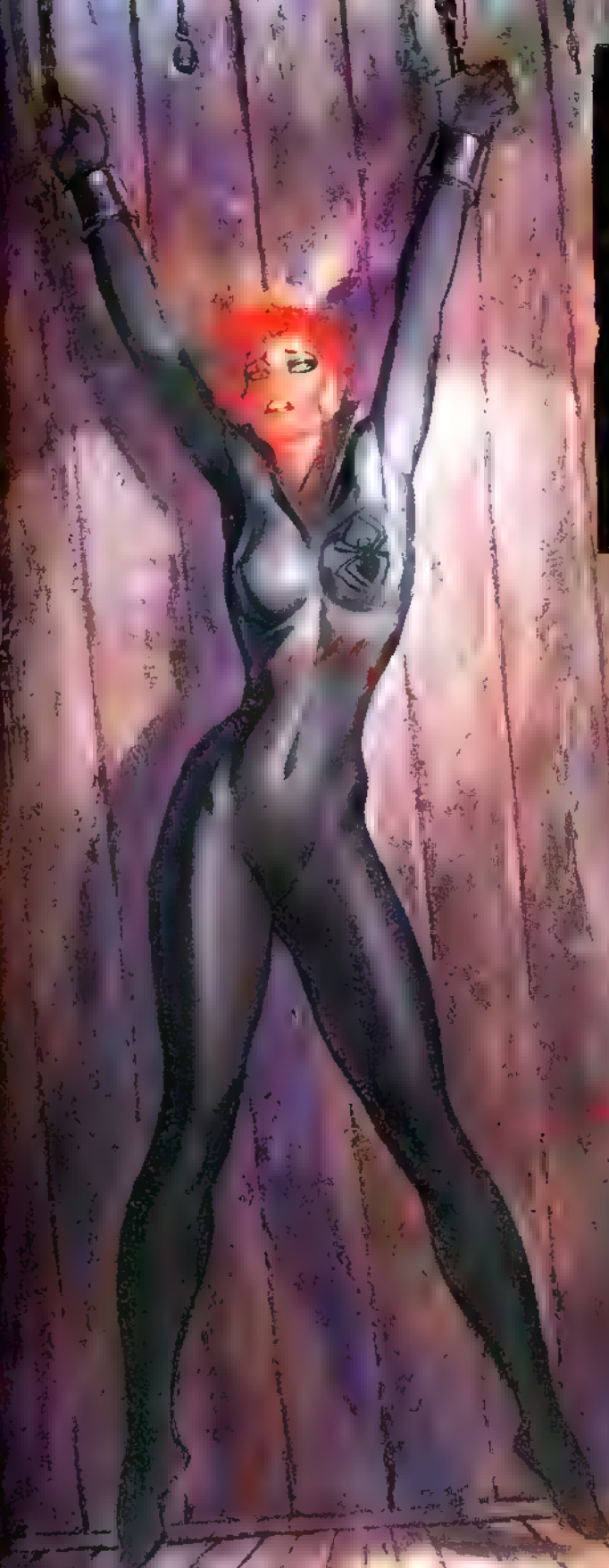


"BUT WHAT HE  
LOVES MORE THAN  
ANYTHING IS

"A GOOD  
CLIMAX!"







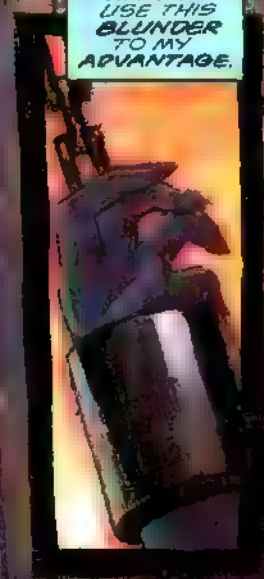
GOD HELP ME!

I WAS SO BUSY  
NOT THINKING  
ABOUT MY WRISTS  
I BETRAYED  
MATT!

KNEW HE'D  
BACK ME UP  
EVEN THOUGH  
HE NEVER  
SAID  
ANYTHING.



HAVE TO  
USE THIS  
BLUNDER  
TO MY  
ADVANTAGE.





ALMOST  
THERE

BLIP!  
BLIP!  
BLIP!

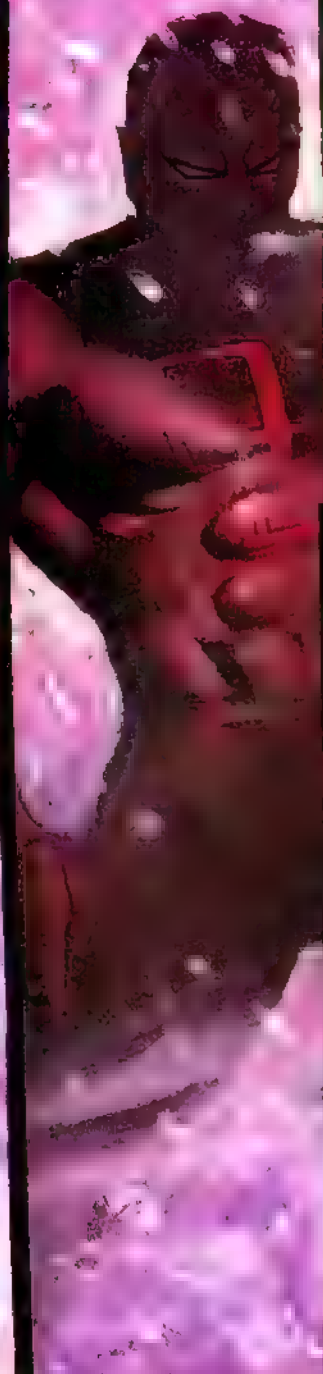


BUT WILL I BE OF  
ANY USE WHEN I  
FINALLY ARRIVE?

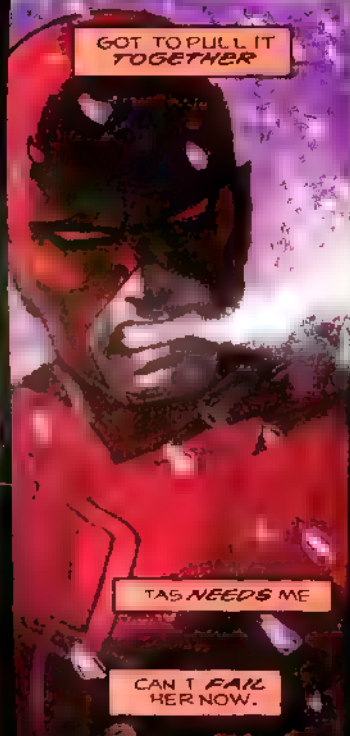
SO CHILLED  
AND STIFF.

AND THE COLD, SNOW  
AND WIND ARE  
THOROUGHLY SCREWING  
UP MY HYPER SENSES

BUMPED INTO  
THREE TREES  
SO FAR



GOT TO PULL IT  
TOGETHER

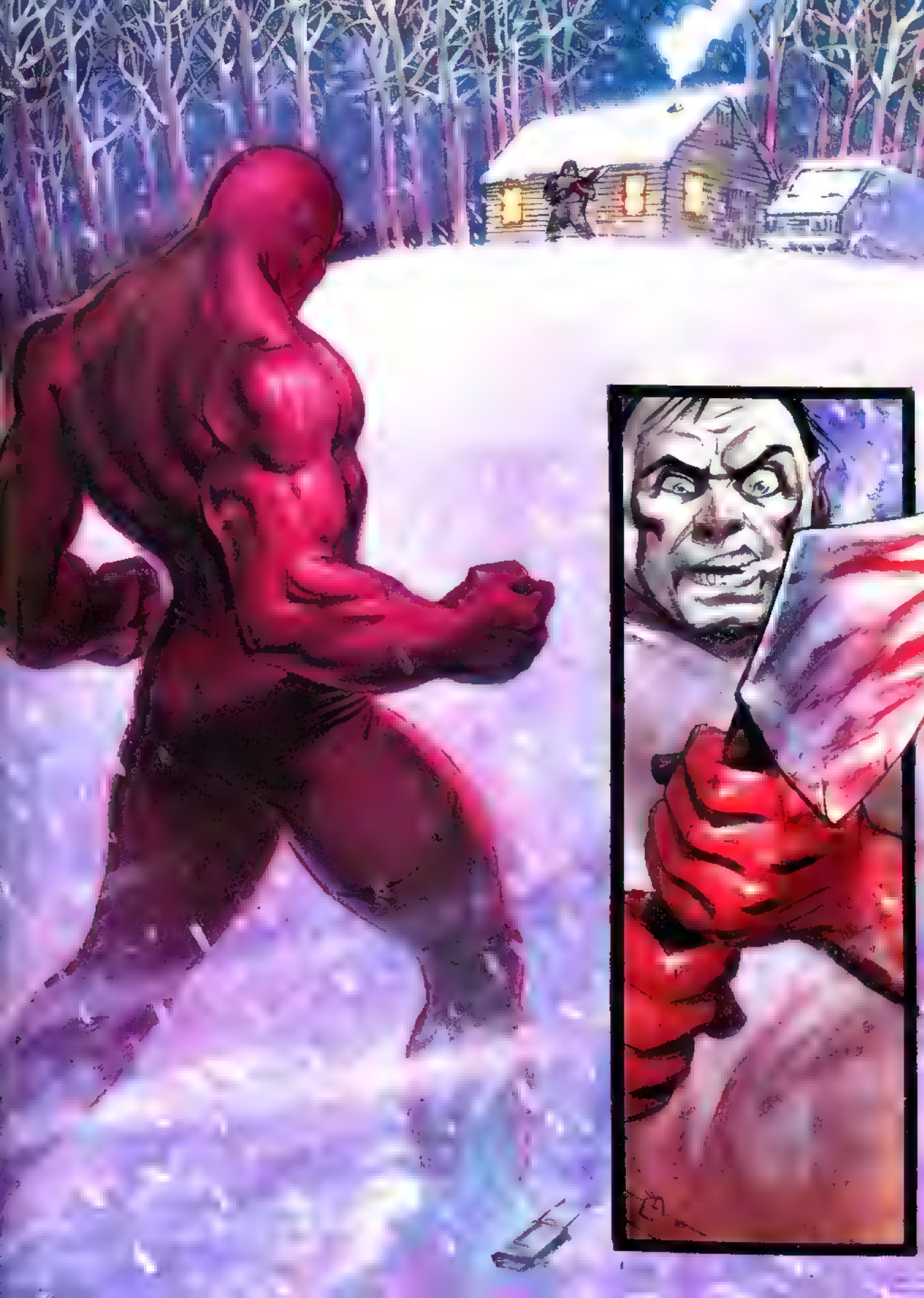


TAS NEEDS ME

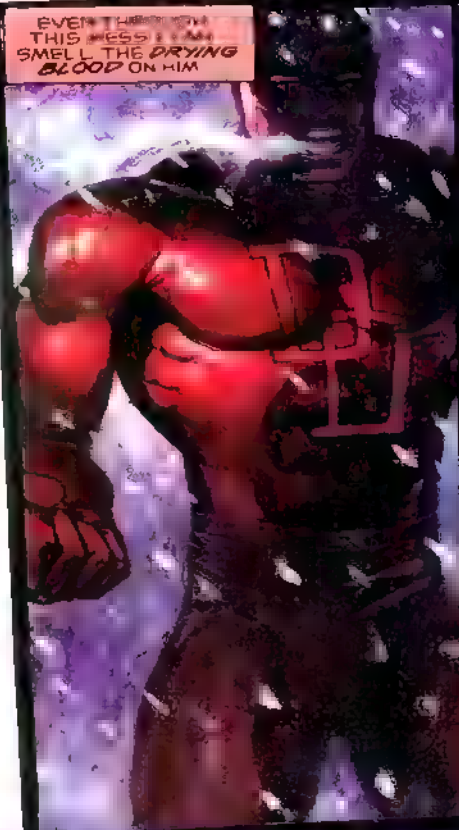
CAN I FAIL  
HER NOW.



WHAT?



EVEN THOUGH I'M  
THIS MESS I CAN  
SMELL THE DRYING  
BLOOD ON HIM

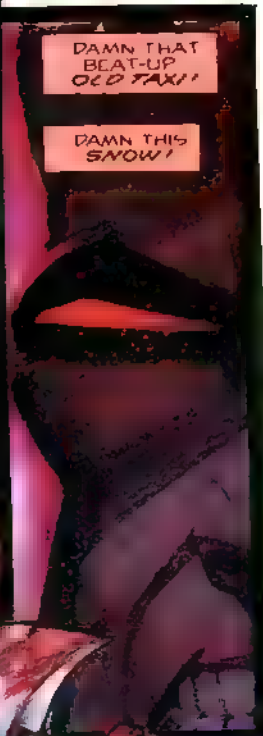


TASS'S BLOOD?  
AM I TOO LATE?

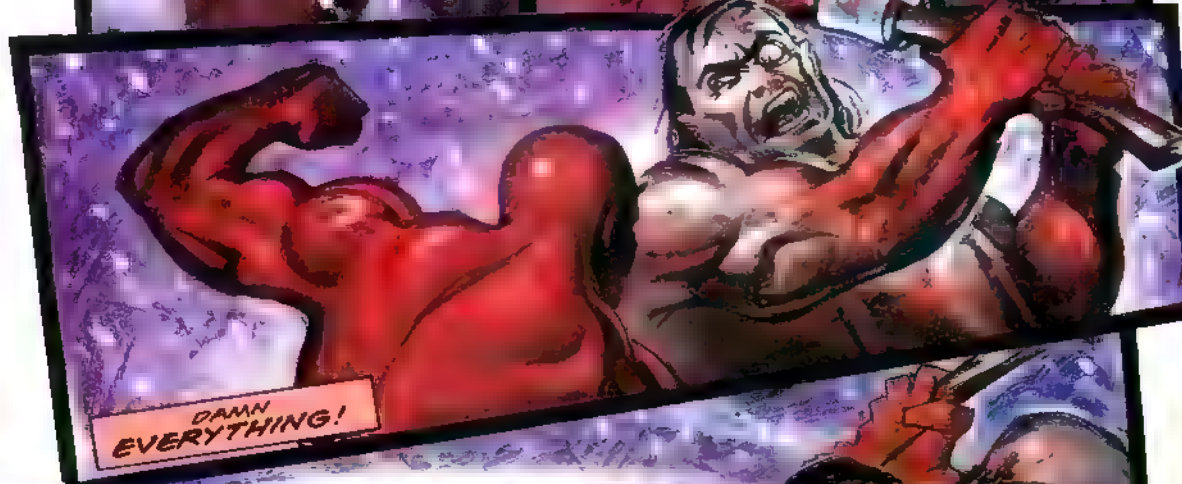


DAMN THAT  
BEAT-UP  
OLD TAXI!

DAMN THIS  
SNOW!



DAMN YOUR  
INCOMPETENCE,  
FLRY



DAMN  
EVERYTHING!





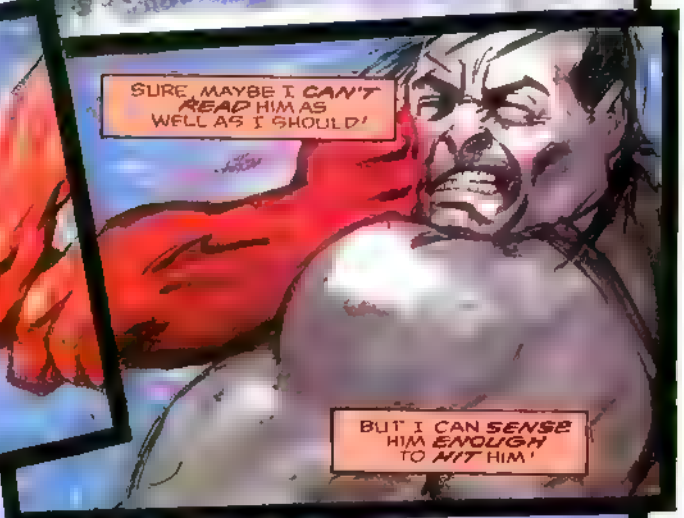
IT'S LIKE  
BEATING ON  
A BRICK  
WALL.

THERE'S ROCK-  
HARD MUSCLE  
UNDER THAT FLAB.



BUT I'VE FACED  
TOUGHER AND  
WALKED AWAY A  
WINNER

IT WON'T BE ANY  
DIFFERENT TODAY!



SURE, MAYBE I CAN'T  
READ HIM AS  
WELL AS I SHOULD!

BUT I CAN SENSE  
HIM ENOUGH  
TO HIT HIM!

AND HIT HIM AGAIN.

AND AGAIN.

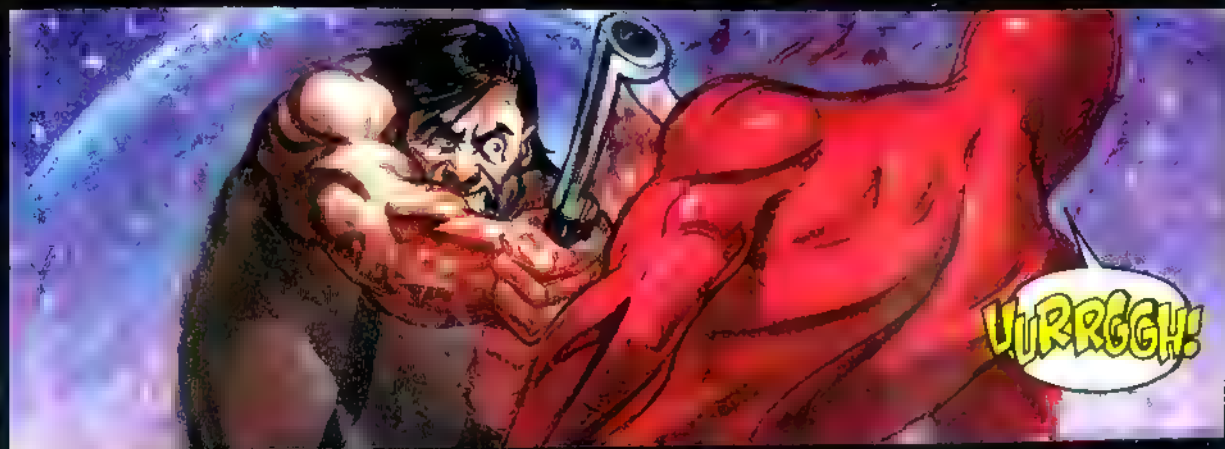
AND  
AGAIN!

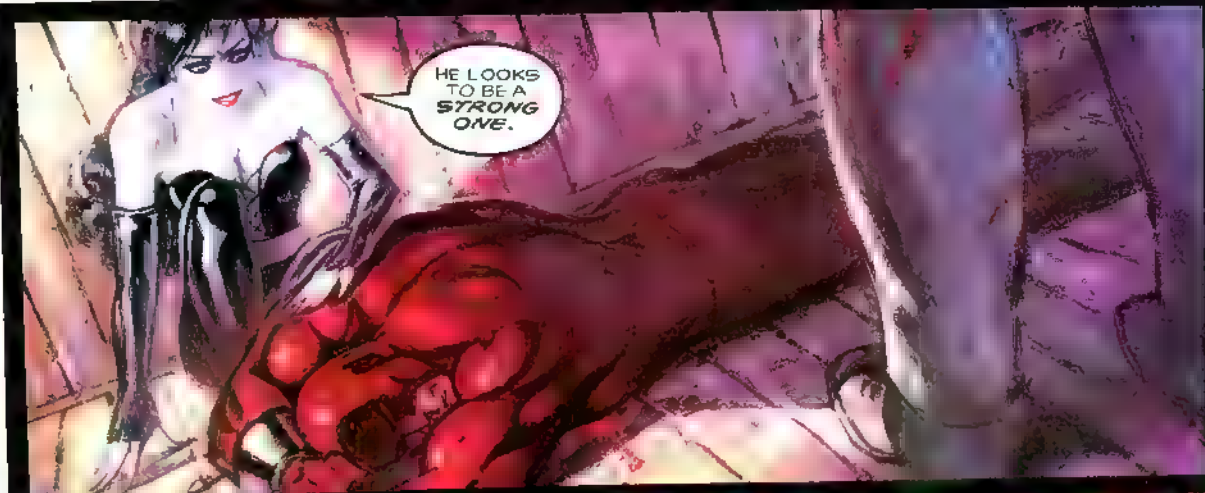
IN THE END THAT'S  
ALL IT TAKES

NOTHING  
ELSE  
MATTERS "

HUH?









GOT TO  
TAKE HIM.

IGNORE  
THE PAIN AND  
STIFFNESS!

YOUR BODY'S NOT  
UP TO IT, GIRL!

BEEN HANGING  
TOO LONG!



FIGHT WITH  
YOUR HEAD!



USE ANYTHING  
THAT COMES TO HAND  
AS A WEAPON

THIS IS NO TIME  
TO WORRY ABOUT  
FIGHTING FAIR!



YOU DON'T DROP  
CHARLIE OUT,  
YOU'RE DEAD!



AND SO IS MATT.

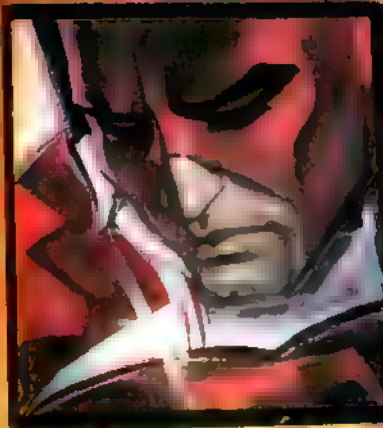
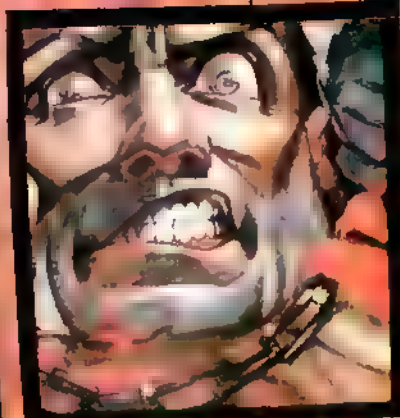
MATT ..

IS ABOUT  
TO GET A NEW  
SMILE

LET CHARLIE  
LOOSE AND  
WE'LL WORK  
THIS OUT

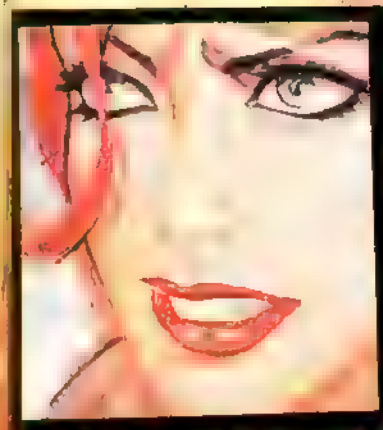
THEN  
MATT AND I  
BOTH DIE  
HORRIBLY

OH, MATT

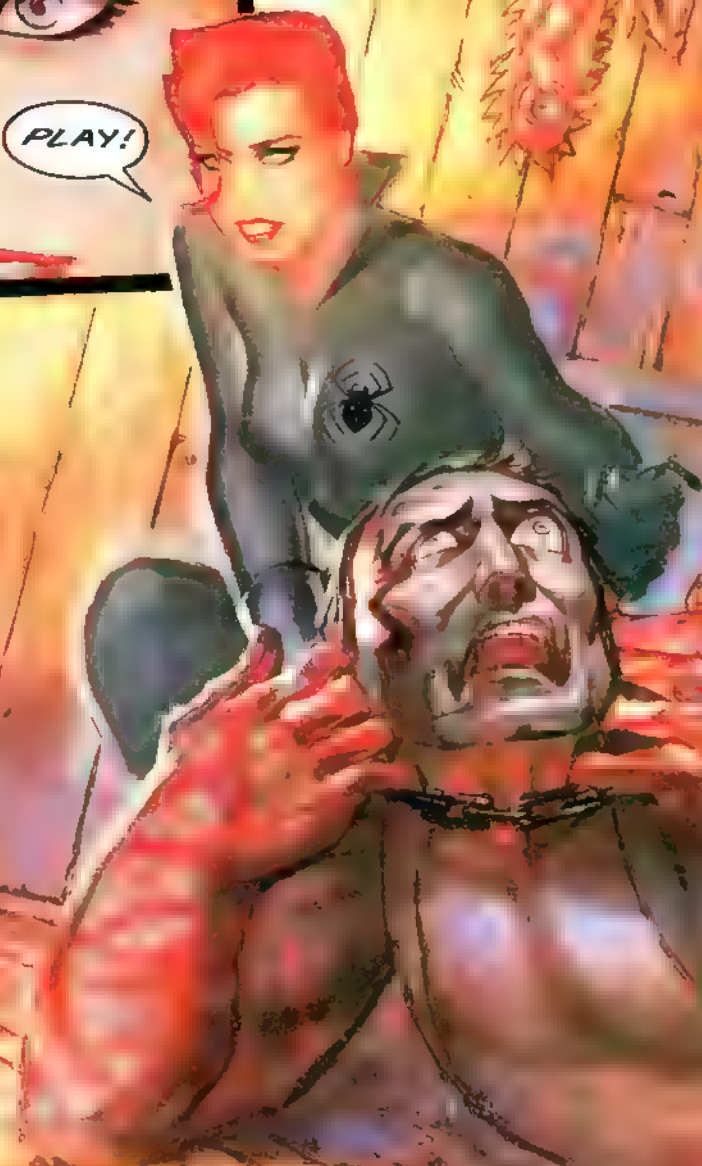
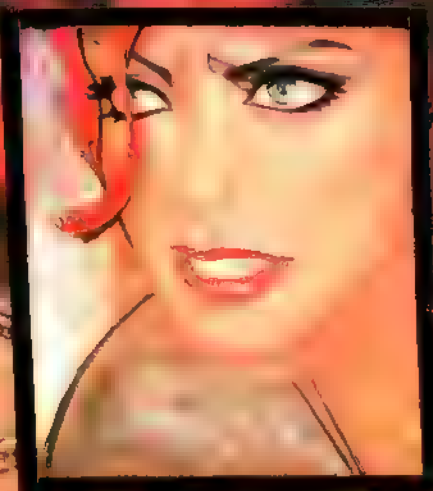
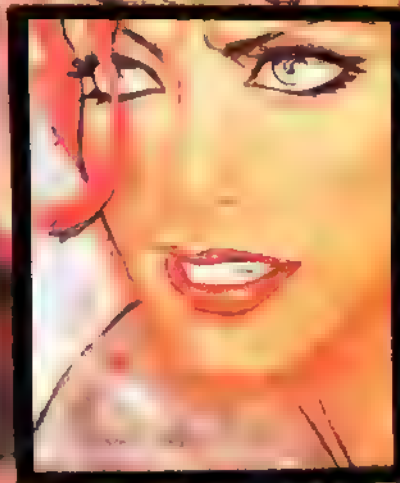


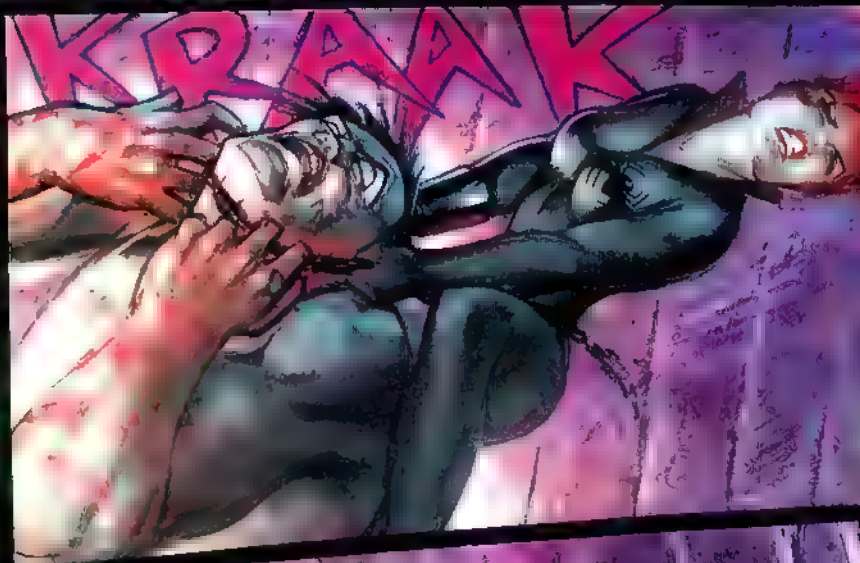
WHAT'S  
IT GOING  
TO BE,  
WIDOW?

PLAY  
OR  
PASS?



PLAY!





JUST YOU  
AND ME NOW,  
ROSIE!

LET'S FIND  
OUT JUST HOW  
SPECIAL YOU  
REALLY ARE!



THAT LAST  
VERBAL JAB  
DOES THE JOB!

ROSE COMES  
DIRECTLY FOR ME,  
MATT COMPLETELY  
FORGOTTEN



NOW ALL I HAVE TO  
DO IS SURVIVE  
MY OWN CLEVERNESS.

ROSE IS  
COMPLETELY  
BERSERK!



I FIGURE THAT'LL WORK  
TO MY ADVANTAGE.

AN ANGRY ENEMY IS  
AN UNTHINKING FOE



MY TRAINING AND  
SKILL WILL WIN OUT  
IN THE END.

BUT THEN  
I DISCOVER...



...ROSIE'S RAGE WAS  
ALL AN ACT.

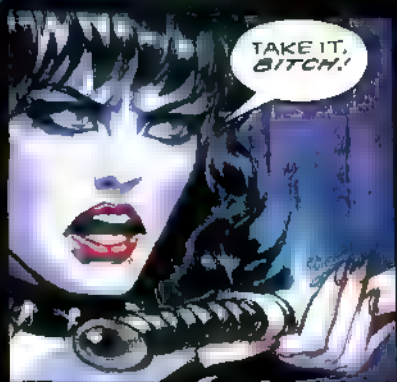




TAKE  
THE KNIFE,  
WIDOW.

SHE WENT FOR ME BECAUSE  
I WOULD HAVE REACHED HER  
WHILE SHE WAS SLICING  
MATT'S THROAT.

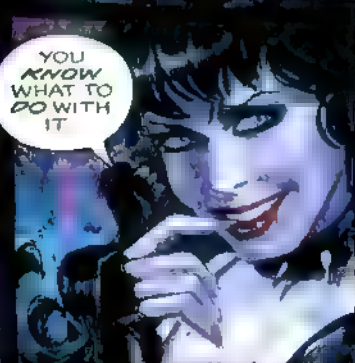
ROSE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TIME  
TO MAKE EYE CONTACT.



TAKE IT,  
BITCH!



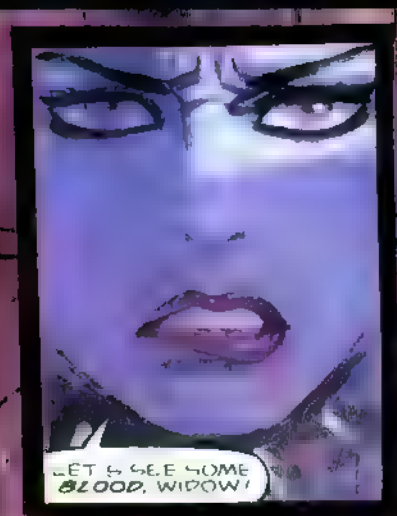
YOU  
KNOW  
WHAT TO  
DO WITH  
IT



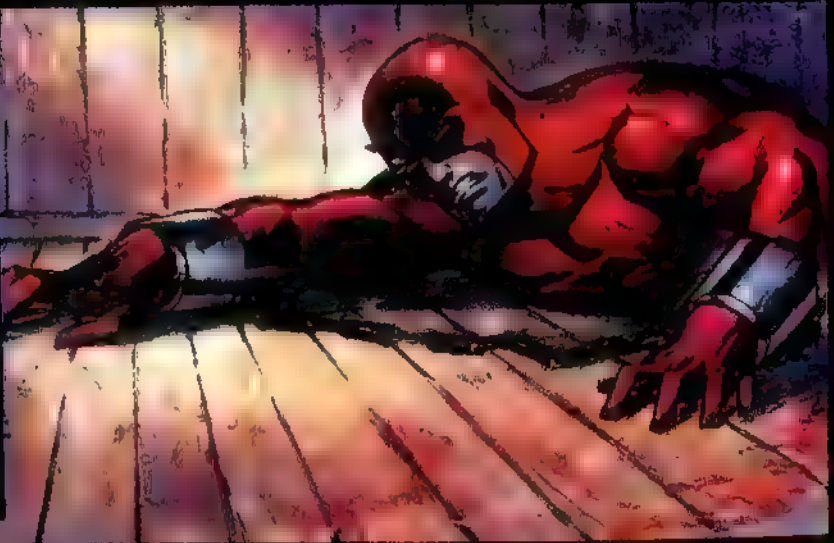
THE  
THROAT'S  
A GOOD  
PLACE TO  
START.

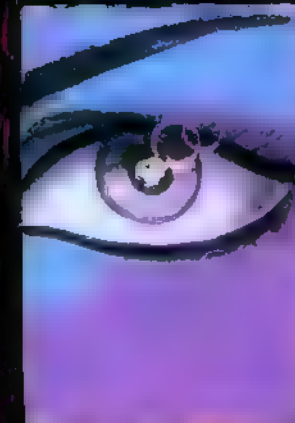
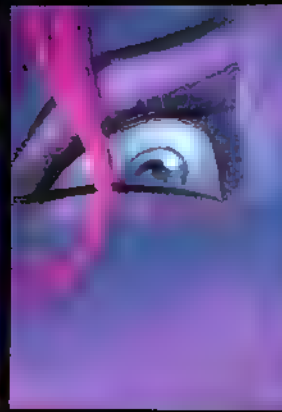
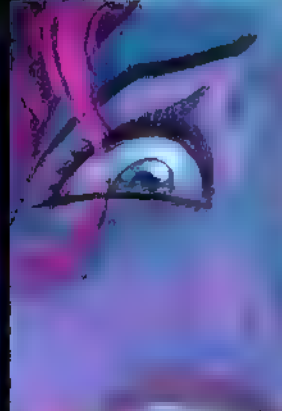
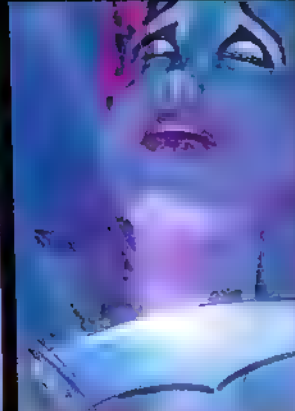
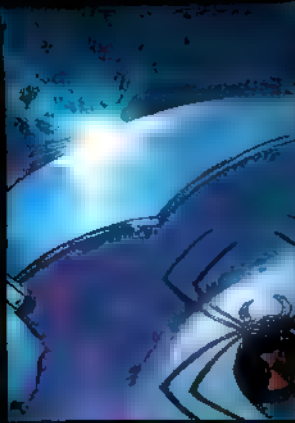


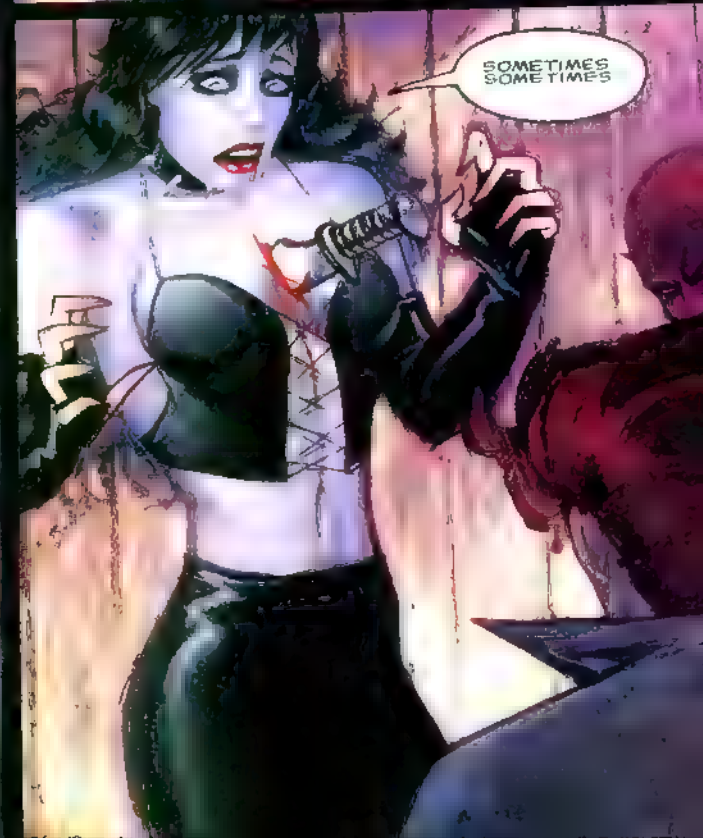
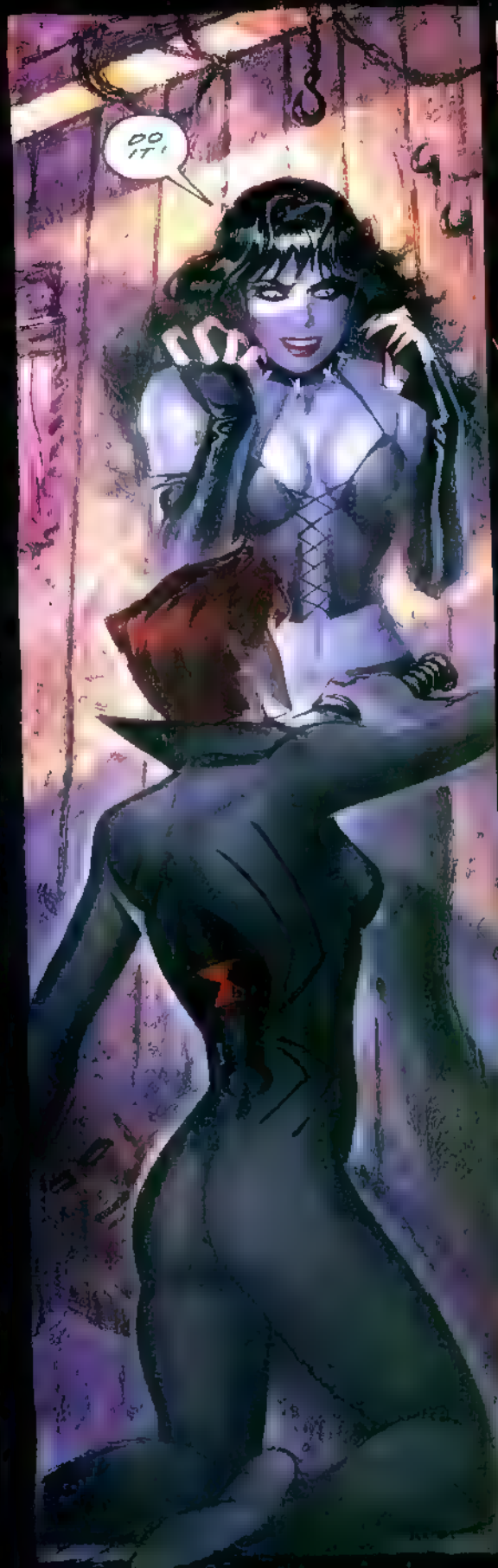
NO!

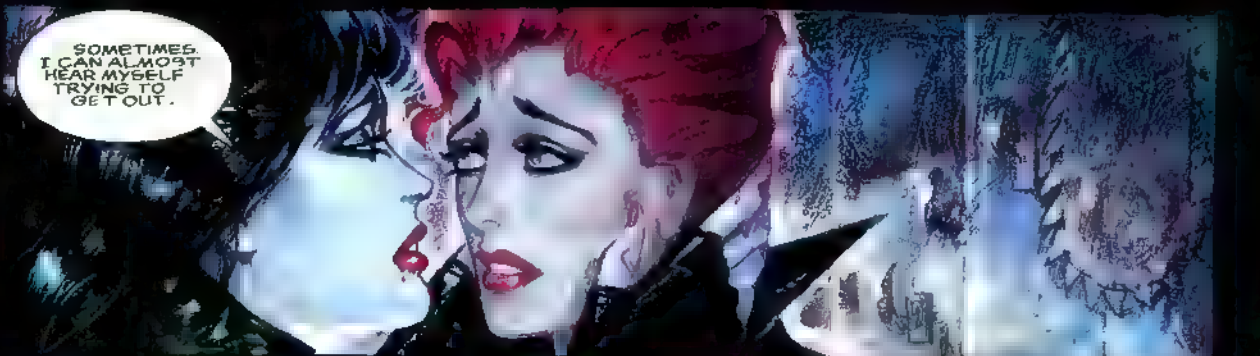


LET'S SEE SOME  
BLOOD, WIDOW!

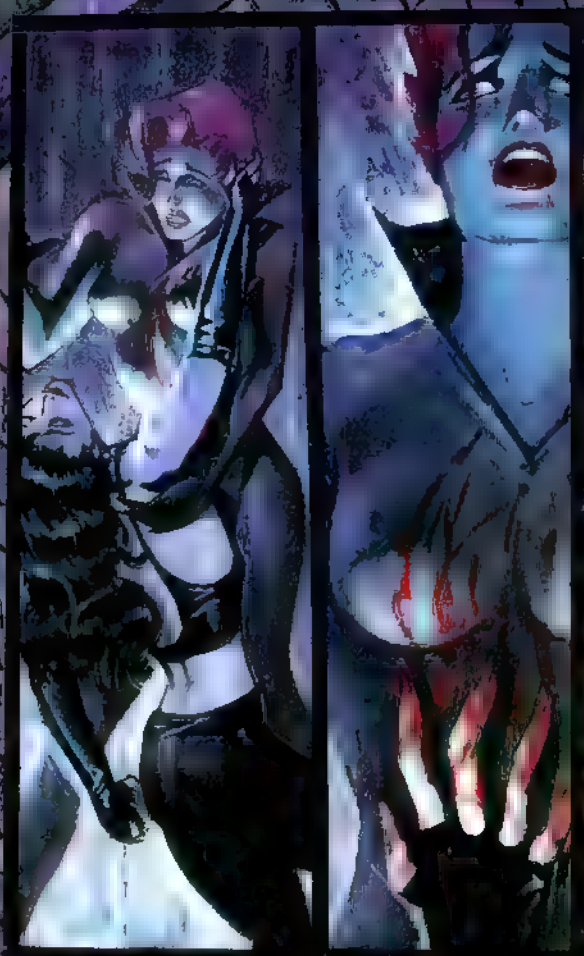
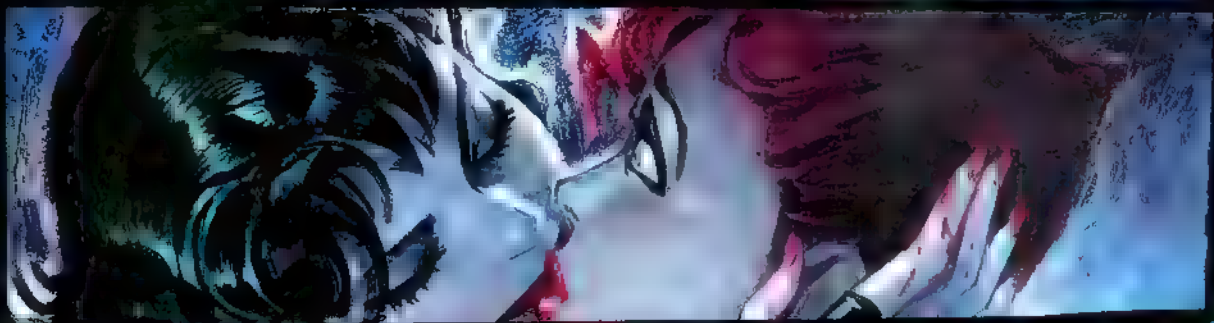






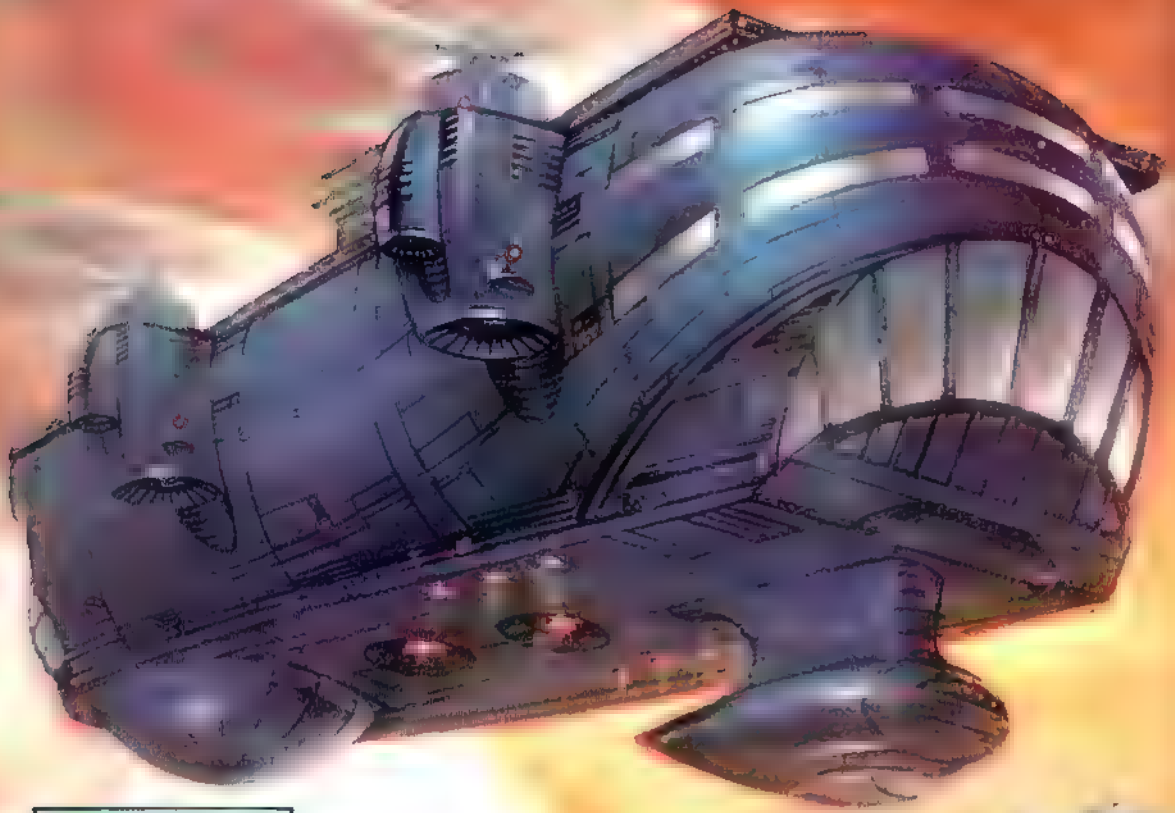
A close-up, high-contrast illustration of two women's faces. The woman on the right has short, vibrant red hair and is looking towards the left with a somber expression. The woman on the left has dark, wavy hair and is looking towards the right. The background is dark and indistinct.

SOMETIMES,  
I CAN ALMOST  
HEAR MYSELF  
TRYING TO  
GET OUT.



WHAT'S  
WRONG  
WITH ME?

TEARS FOR  
A TWISTED  
HORROR?

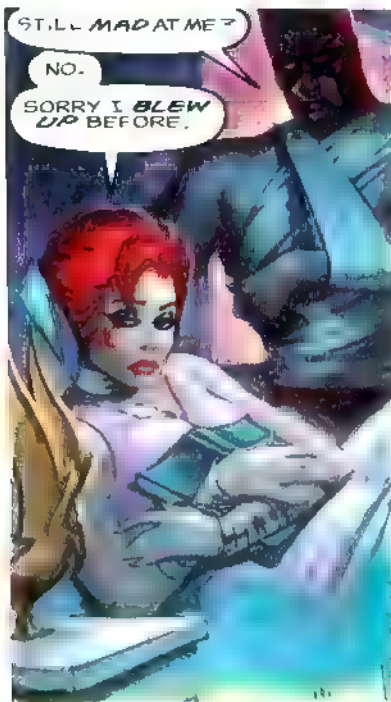


**FURY'S MEN  
FIND ME CRADLING  
ROSE'S BODY  
IN MY ARMS.**

**WITHIN A COUPLE OF HOURS  
WE'RE IN SHIELD'S  
HELI-CARRIER'S SICK BAY,  
PATCHED UP AND RECOVERING.**

"HI "

"HI YOURSELF."



STILL MAD AT ME?

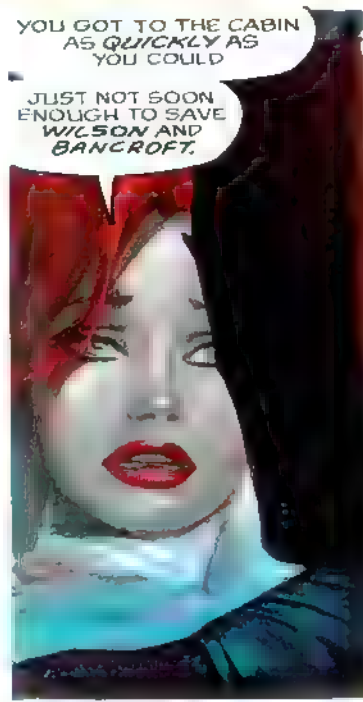
NO.

SORRY I **BLEW  
UP** BEFORE.



I WAS OUT OF LINE,  
NOT MYSELF.

FURY FILLED  
ME IN ON WHAT  
CAME DOWN



YOU GOT TO THE CABIN  
AS **QUICKLY** AS  
YOU COULD

JUST NOT SOON  
ENOUGH TO SAVE  
**WILSON AND  
BANCROFT.**



I'M  
**LUCKY** YOU  
GOT THERE  
IN TIME FOR  
**ME.**



HOW  
YOU DOING,  
TAS?



I'LL  
MEND



BUT HOW  
ARE YOU  
DOING?



I SPENT 18 HOURS WITH  
**TWO MANIACS**, GOT  
TRAPPED IN THE **MIND**  
OF ONE OF THEM

SAW THE WORLD  
THROUGH HER **TWISTED**  
**PERSPECTIVE**, FELT  
HER **SICK JOY**  
IN BUTCHERY.

IN MANY  
WAYS I ACTUALLY  
BECAME **PART**  
OF **ROSE.**

AND **SHE**  
BECAME **PART**  
OF **ME**





THE ONLY THING I WONDER  
ABOUT THOUGH...



...IS WHETHER I'M  
EVER AGAIN GOING  
TO FEEL CLEAN.

END

LOGO

ken lopez

DESIGNER

dawn geiger

PRODUCTION

steve bunche

MANUFACTURING COORDINATOR

christopher ebel

EDITORS

gregory wright

rob lokar

EDITOR IN CHIEF

tom defalco

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Life is fluid. Some 90% of us is made up of water. Without this precious liquid we are nothing. We cease to exist. We're dead. This water's carried around in thin-skinned sacks. We must all be insane to race recklessly about in a world filled with so many sharp and pointed dangers.

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